



## Community Emergency Planning

The emergency services including the police, fire and rescue, local authorities, health service and similar organisations, have tried and tested plans that are activated when an emergency occurs.

However, Craven is a large and sparsely populated district and it may be impossible for these services to reach every community in the first hours of a widespread emergency (like flooding for instance). Early action on the ground, especially in more remote areas, depends upon local capacity, skills and resources.

Prior planning can make sure that your local response is as effective as possible and that your community can recover speedily from an emergency.

A Community Emergency Plan can be as involved as you want it to be. It can be a document with detailed information within, or it can be just a sheet of A4 highlighting key information.

If you go to this website you can see if your area already has a community emergency plan

[https://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/analyst/?mapcfg=comm\\_emergency\\_plans](https://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/analyst/?mapcfg=comm_emergency_plans)

If your area doesn't have a plan, and you are interested in developing one, as preparation it might be worth considering your community's assets. Every community has access to a range of local skills, knowledge, physical resources and support organisations that can be mobilised in the event of an emergency. The key to acting promptly and effectively in an emergency is having identified these in advance.

Things you will need to consider include:

Who is good at what? - Each community has people who have been known to help in the past or who have skills that would be particularly useful. These will include local farmers, health professionals, First Responders, builders, electricians, search and rescue team members and others with specialist skills and training.

What resources do we have? - There are likely to be a variety of vehicles, tools, machinery, equipment, and sources of food, water and construction materials.

How will we communicate? - Where in the community are there good telephone communications and a strong mobile phone signal? How might they be affected in an emergency and will you need alternatives?

Think about how you will use your volunteers, perhaps identifying teams to:

- Staff your local control centre
- Assist with a rest centre
- Become local wardens to 'door knock' particular parts of your community should an emergency arise

Consider whether you need to put in place agreements with the individuals and organisations concerned, relating to their availability in an emergency. If you identify the need to acquire special equipment (e.g. 2-way radios, first aid materials, blankets, battery radios, torches, grit), you will need to think about where these can be stored securely but be accessible when needed. You will also need to think about who is to be responsible for their security and maintenance.

There is more information on this website

<http://www.emergencynorthyorks.gov.uk/>

But it is also worth contacting Craven's Resilience and Emergencies Officer who will be able to give you guidance and advice, either by phone/email or will come to speak to you in person or at any public/parish meetings that you hold.

Our Resilience and Emergencies Officer is Tim Townsend, contact details:  
Resilience and Emergencies Team, Central Services, North Yorkshire County Council, Room B9 County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD

Telephone: (01609) 532246

Email: [emergency@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:emergency@northyorks.gov.uk)

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