

Radnage Parish Council

Emergency Planning Statement – June 2018

General Requirements

Whilst Local Authorities have a statutory duty to have emergency plans and business continuity plans, to communicate with the public on the risk of emergencies and how to prepare for them, there is no statutory duty for Parish or Town Councils to produce an emergency plan.

Radnage Overview

It is believed that very few 'emergency' situations may arise in our Parish that are not already catered for by National, County or District level emergency planning, or are not within the scope of the normal activities of the emergency services (fire, ambulance, police) Furthermore, the parish council has limited resources to apply to covering situations that may have a very low to non-existent chance of occurrence. However, in the event of a wide-area incident, when county and district council services as well as emergency services resources are stretched, the ability of our community to be self-sufficient could be of benefit.

At such a time, the Chairman of the Radnage Parish Council, or other nominated council member, would be expected to head up a group of local citizens to consider risk to and effect on our community, as well as appropriate responses and co-ordination with other authorities. Aside from other government bodies, the emergency services and individuals with specific skills, we would work with local organisations and people, as deemed necessary. This could include but is not restricted to local companies based in Radnage, our farming community, the church, Green Lane Residents Association, the WI, neighbouring parish councils etc.

It is accepted that parish assets may need to be 'appropriated' during the course of that specific event, as necessitated by the nature of the event. For example, the Village Hall could be used to temporarily house residents, act as an operations centre, or as a centre for refreshments and meals.

Medical Emergencies

Under normal circumstances, RPC are unable to provide medical services over and above those provided by the emergency services.

- Defibrillators
 - o A defibrillator is owned by C Dowdy, situated in their 'yard' at c/o Green Lane and City Road. Their management have kindly offered this for use during opening hours
 - o RPC are in the process of acquiring up to 2 more defibrillators to situate at appropriate sites in the parish. On acquisition, details will be published.
- First Responders
 - o Radnage has a 'first responder' based in the village.

Weather Conditions - Snow

- Radnage roads are not on the WDC gritting route, except for the bus routes, viz.:

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- o Mudds Bank (Junction A40), down City Road to junction of Green End Road
- o Green End Road as far as the bus stop (junction of Radnage Common Road)
- o The road section from Mudds Bank to c/o City Road and Green Lane is frequently used by large vehicles based in the parish and generally cleared due to this activity.
- The Parish Council traditionally ensures that the Village Hall parking area is open for parking of vehicles, mainly for residents of the lower portion of Radnage Common Road, Green End Road beyond the gritted section and Green Lane.
- It is generally understood that if we have a 'snow in' we will:
 - o Ask for help from our farming or contracting community for a 'one off' clearance of roads, which the RPC would pay for, including moving stuck or abandoned vehicles.
 - o Ask community to check on their neighbours, particularly the more vulnerable
 - o Ask owners of 4x4s if they will be willing to assist in giving lifts to those who may be housebound but need to get out - doctor, shopping etc.
- Gritting bins are located in Green Lane (3), top of Bowers Lane (1) and St Mary's Church (1) We would normally ask for volunteers to assist in spreading grit when conditions necessitate this

Weather Conditions - Other

- Flooding
 - o Due to its geography, Radnage is not prone to large scale flooding. Any floods would be isolated cases and within the scope of the emergency services, utility companies etc.
- Extreme Cold or Heat Waves
 - o Radnage has a higher than average proportion of elderly residents, who are more prone to be affected by temperature extremes. We would encourage residents to check up on their more vulnerable neighbours and contact the appropriate services if concerned.

Road Access

There are 4 roads to enter / exit the parish being (1) City Road, leading from Mudds Bank off the A40, (2) Bottom Road / Hatch Lane, leading from Chorley Road, (3) Radnage Lane/Church Lane, leading from Bledlow Ridge Road, (4) Sprigs Holly, leading in from Chinnor Hill. All these roads originate in surrounding parishes – Stokenchurch, Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, West Wycombe and Stokenchurch. Maintenance of our roads, except private roads (e.g. Green Lane) are the responsibility of Bucks County Council. Should access be an issue, we would need to collaborate with the party responsible for roads originating outside the parish and/or BCC.

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Utilities

The likelihood of main utilities failing for any extended length of time is extremely unlikely. Under normal circumstances planned outages are communicated to residents affected and, sometimes, to the Parish Council. In the past, the Parish Council has provided sites to situate equipment such as electricity generators and access to parish properties.

- Electricity
 - o Responsibility is down to the National Grid and/or the utility provider (eg. SSE)
There are 3 main (11KV) lines supplying the parish and, unless outages are more than just localised, only sections of residents will be affected by an outage.
- Water and Sewage
 - o Water and sewage are managed by the utility supplier (e.g. Thames Water)
- Communications
 - o Main communications into Radnage are via cellular networks and fixed line/fibre.
The likelihood of all failing / being restricted, barring national emergency, are very unlikely.

ADVICE TO OUR RESIDENTS – HOW TO COPE WITH MAJOR EMERGENCIES

THINK FIRST AND LET COMMON SENSE TELL YOU WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

FOR WIDESPREAD FAILURE OF WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS OR PHONE SERVICES, SEVERE WEATHER, FLOODING, PUBLIC HEALTH, DROUGHT OR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING ADVICE GIVEN IN THE GOVERNMENT BOOKLET 'PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES' :

GO IN

To the nearest safe building (if you are not already at home)

STAY IN

The emergency services will expect to collect you from there if any evacuation is needed

TUNE IN

To TV or radio stations for news (use a battery radio or a car radio)

TUNE YOUR BATTERY RADIO TO A LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND LISTEN TO THE INFORMATION THEY WILL BE GIVING OUT

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

MAKE YOURSELF AND THE MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD AS SAFE AS YOU CAN, AND THEN LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS (VULNERABLE PEOPLE) NEARBY WHO COULD DO WITH YOUR HELP.

MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD MAY BE AT SCHOOL OR AT WORK. They will be looked after there. Avoid jamming up the phone networks by making desperate attempts to

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contact them, and don't cause chaos on the roads by driving off to try to find them! You will hear on the radio when it is safe for you to collect children from school.

WHAT IF IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD TO STAY PUT, OR IF YOU HEAR ON THE TV OR RADIO THAT YOUR PART OF THE AREA IS TO BE EVACUATED?

- IF THERE'S TIME turn/switch off heating, gas, electricity, water and all the gadgets you normally have on in the house;
- Carry with you your usual wallet or handbag, mobile phone and your credit cards;
- Try to take some emergency food and water;
- Take the medicines that any member of your household must have regularly;
- Check everyone is with you and lock up your house;
- Find a safe building, or if you are near your area's local centre (see list below), go there on foot or by car;
- Be sure to tell the centre on arrival the names of all your party;
- Tell the centre of anyone else you know about, who will need further immediate help;
- Wait for instructions and for transport to the main reception centre, which will have been organised for you.

Our District Council is responsible for organising emergency relief for our area and has plans ready to deal with emergencies.

If there's a major national emergency, the Government will step in and will keep you informed by radio or TV.

This advice is intended to help you cope with the early stages of an emergency.

IN THE MEANTIME... BE PREPARED!

- 1 Find out how to turn/switch off the gas, electricity, water and all the other services in your house.
- 2 Ask for information about the emergency procedures in place at your school or workplace.
- 3 Think how you could help vulnerable neighbours.
- 4 Make up (and keep the items fresh by using them and replacing them regularly) an emergency kit containing:

- A bottle of water for each member of your household;
- Some tins of food and a tin opener;
- First aid items;
- Some warm clothing for each person;
- A blanket and spare clothes for each person;
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies;
- A list of emergency contact details;
- A favourite soft toy, a book of puzzles or a pack of cards – something to relieve boredom.

IF YOU HAVE TO BE EVACUATED FROM YOUR HOUSE, AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO TAKE EXPENSIVE GADGETS. FOR MOST EMERGENCIES WILL NOT KEEP YOU AWAY FROM HOME FOR LONG.

WHEN YOU RETURN HOME, OPEN WINDOWS FOR FRESH AIR BEFORE TURNING ON YOUR GAS, ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLIES.