

# Upton Pyne Parish Council

PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN - October 2008

## Introduction

Parish Councils in Devon are encouraged by Devon County Council, (and in East Devon, the District Council) to write simple self help emergency plans to enable the parish to support itself during an emergency.

There are currently no specific legal requirements for parishes to undertake emergency planning, however, S. 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives parish councils the power to do anything that will benefit the community (or part of it) where there is no other specific power covering the action.

## Planning Assumptions

A plan must be relevant and appropriate to the needs of the community served by the parish, and should be based on an assessment of the likely and foreseeable risks faced by the community.

Hazards that may affect the parish are shown at Annex A.

Most major incidents that could occur in the parish would be responded to by the emergency services or other statutory bodies and would not require significant self-help measures to be implemented.

In the event of a major incident occurring where the emergency services or other statutory bodies are unable to respond, it is likely that local residents would take action to assist those immediately affected. This occurred some years ago when a severe storm caused widespread damage throughout Devon . The demands on the Emergency Services meant they were unable to attend many incidents, and people in Silverton responded to help people affected in the locality.

## Aim

The Parish Council may be able to assist in co-ordinating the response to a major emergency, but is more likely to be involved in the recovery from an incident.

The aim of this plan is to outline how the parish council can contribute to the recovery from an emergency that has affected the parish.

## Objectives

- To have procedures in place for notifying members of the parish council if a major incident has occurred
- To have contact details of other key statutory organisations
- To have details of key resources within the parish

## Parish Emergency Committee

In the event of an emergency affecting the parish, the parish council could form an Emergency Committee to work with statutory agencies to contribute to the recovery from an incident.

## Notification

Contact details for all members of the Parish Council are listed at Annex B.

### Notification by the Parish Council

Should an incident occur which is considered to require the intervention and support of the parish council, the Chair, Vice Chair, or Clerk should be contacted. If it is agreed to convene an Emergency Committee, the Chair,

Vice Chair, or Clerk will notify other Parish Councillors.

Notification by East Devon District Council:

Should an incident occur which requires the intervention and support of the parish council, East Devon District Council should contact the first available Councillor listed at Annex B, who will notify other Councillors.

**Records**

A record of significant events and expenditure must be maintained throughout an emergency.

Records must be retained and kept secure by the Parish Clerk to provide documentary evidence for any subsequent enquiry, and/or to support claims for financial reimbursement e.g. via insurance claims or as part of a claim made by the District Council.

**Annex A - Hazard Assessment**

HAZARD	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY	CONSEQUENCE
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>			
<b>Snow</b>	Annual light falls Occasional heavy falls	Usually minor Occasionally heavy and prolonged	Disruption to amenities and transport network
<b>Flooding</b>  Fluvial and surface water	Rivers Exe and Creedy flood plain frequently floods during periods of prolonged rainfall.	Majority of parish not in low-lying areas.	Disruption to transport.
	Minor watercourses frequently flood during periods of prolonged rainfall.	Relatively small number of properties affected	Properties and roads adjacent to watercourses will be affected.
	Occasional flash flooding from stream running through Jackmoor.	Stream quickly subsides	Relatively small number of properties affected on ground floor.
	Surface water/run-off from fields frequent during periods of prolonged rainfall.	Minor impact primarily on roads	Properties and roads adjacent to watercourses will be affected.
<b>Wind</b>	More frequent in winter months	Occasionally severe	Risk of death or injury. Potential for widespread damage to property and disruption to amenities, particularly power and communications. Emergency Services stretched therefore response times increased.
<b>Drought</b>	Infrequent	Major disruption if service reduced or standpipes introduced	Restrictions on usage. Use of standpipes. Greater consequences for certain groups, e.g. elderly people, people on dialysis
<b>Thunderstorms</b>	Periodic, especially in summer	Can be severe	Disruption to amenities, e.g. power and communications
<b>TECHNICAL</b>			
<b>Industrial activities</b> Water Treatment Works	Low	Minor impact to property nearby	Possible smoke plume but likely to be dispersed over distance or flooding
<b>Three Horseshoes Service Station</b> Explosion and fire	Possible	Severe in immediate area of incident	Major impact to life/property /environment

<b>HAZARD</b>	<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>	<b>SEVERITY</b>	<b>CONSEQUENCE</b>
<b>Natural gas pipelines</b> Explosion and fire	Possible	Severe in immediate area of incident	Major impact to life/property /environment
<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
<b>Road</b> A377 at Cowley Exeter/Crediton road	Possible	Major impact to life/property /environment if heavy vehicle and/or hazardous substances involved	Danger to life/property/ environment Disruption to road traffic
<b>Railway</b> Exeter to Barnstaple line	Possible	Major impact on premises and environment immediately adjacent to line  Lesser impact further away from line	Major disruption to rail network  Possible impact on adjacent road network
<b>Air</b> Flights from Exeter Airport  International airspace  Low flying military aircraft.	Possible	Catastrophic especially in larger settlements	Major impact to life/property /environment Long term disruption and recovery issues
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
<b>Thatched properties</b>  Fire	Possible particularly during winter months	Impact on property concerned and adjacent premises	Spread of fire  Possible need for temporary accommodation and re-housing

## Annex B - Emergency Contact Details

### Parish Council

First person contacted will notify all other Councillors