



Hi and Welcome to our second Emergency Planning Newsletter.

Thank you to all of you that were able to come along to the Town and Parish Briefing in March this year. It was great to see so many of you there, and we look forward to seeing and working with you again.

Since we last wrote to you in October last year, we have seen unprecedented storms and flooding across the region over the Christmas and New Year period. Although Shropshire didn't bare the brunt of the floods, the River Severn reached levels which saw the 3rd phase of the barriers at Frankwell being deployed along with the defences at Coleham in Shrewsbury being deployed for the first time.

The storms in February led to unprecedented power outages in the North of the County, and many communities supported one another through the opening of warming centres in village halls.

We've had a busy spring re-writing and exercising a number of our Emergency Plans, including the Pandemic Flu Plan, the Multi Agency Silver Plan and the Animal Health Plan.

In this issue, we will be talking about how RAYNET can be used in an Emergency, a look at how we can prepare for the summer months should we see temperatures rise, and also let you know what we've been up to and who we've been working with.

Remember.....Make a P.L.A.N



Prepare

Know the hazards, know what to do.



Link Up

Keep in contact with your family, know where to meet.



Accommodate

Who can you stay with if you cannot return to your house?



Necessary Kit

Essential items you'll need in or out of your home.

IN THIS ISSUE



RAYNET



Who we've been working with



Summer is on its way



What are we doing?



Useful Contact Details



RAYNET

Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network is the UK's national voluntary communications service provided for the community by licensed radio amateurs.

RAYNET was formed in 1953 following the severe East coast flooding, to provide a way of organising the valuable resource that Amateur Radio is able to provide to the community.

Since then, it has grown into a very active organisation with around 2000 members, providing communication assistance on many hundreds of events each year.

Amateur Radio operators have access to a wide range of radio bands, operating modes and equipment which allows RAYNET to offer a unique range of emergency communication services to our user services. Coupled with member's endless resourcefulness, RAYNET is regarded as a professional support organisation by both the statutory and volunteer emergency service organisations.

If you'd like to find out more, or find out if you have any Raynet Volunteers in your community, please contact the Emergency Planning Unit.



Community Resilience

Annual Town and Parish Briefing 2014



It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Town and Parish Briefing in March. Presentations were given by the Emergency Planning Team, the Flood and Water Management Team and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. We hope you found the event interesting and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Wem Town Council

We were invited to attend a meeting at Wem Town Council where we discussed the development of a Community Emergency Plan to deal with some of the risks they face, including incidents at the Level Crossing in Wem. The Emergency Planning Team will continue to support this piece of work over the coming months.

Kinnerley

Kinnerley Parish Council are developing a Flood Action Plan along with a generic Community Emergency Plan.

Llanyblodwel

Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency continue to work closely with Llanyblodwel in the development of a plan to deal with the risk of flooding in the area. Further consultation work with the community will be taking place over the summer months to discuss the final draft of the plan.



Get ready for summer

Most of us welcome hot weather, but when it's too hot for too long there are health risks. If a heat wave hits this summer, make sure the hot weather doesn't harm you or anyone you know.

The very young, the elderly and the seriously ill are the groups who are particularly at risk of health problems when the weather is very hot.

To stay cool in the summer you should:

- Shut windows and pull down the shades when it is hotter outside. If it's safe, open them for ventilation when it is cooler.
- Avoid the heat: stay out of the sun and don't go out between 11am and 3pm (the hottest part of the day) if you're vulnerable to the effects of heat.
- Keep rooms cool by using shades or reflective material outside the windows. If this isn't possible, use light-coloured curtains and keep them closed (metallic blinds and dark curtains can make the room hotter).
- Have cool baths or showers, and splash yourself with cool water.
- Drink cold drinks regularly, such as water and fruit juice. Avoid tea, coffee and alcohol.
- Stay tuned to the weather forecast on the radio or TV, or at the Met Office website.
- Plan ahead to make sure you have enough supplies, such as food, water and any medications you need.
- Identify the coolest room in the house so you know where to go to keep cool.
- Wear loose, cool clothing and a hat if you go outdoors.
- Check up on friends, relatives and neighbours who may be less able to look after themselves.





What have we been doing?

Exercise Birdwatch



Shropshire Council has a statutory duty to exercise our Emergency Plans and in May this year, we took the opportunity to test new mobile and flexible working arrangements in the event of an emergency situation. The scenario involved an Avian Influenza outbreak leading to a Pandemic Influenza outbreak. This involved the activation of a number of plans including the Corporate Emergency Plan, Business Continuity Plan, Pandemic Influenza Plan and the Notifiable Animal Diseases Plan.

We were fortunate to have the support from a number of external partners including the Military, Public Health England and Defra, who helped to make the scenario as life like as possible.

A number of learning points were identified during the exercise and we will be working to address these over the coming months, along with updating any plans where necessary.

The pictures show the Council's Emergency Management Team working through the scenario.



What have we been doing?

Exercise Broken Leaf



We work very closely with the other Emergency Responders in Shropshire to ensure that our Emergency Plans dovetail one another. We also take the opportunity to exercise together, and in May this year, we were invited to participate in a Multi-Agency Exercise led by the RAF at RAF Shawbury.

The Exercise involved a mid-air collision resulting in a number of casualties requiring rescue along with a fire on board one of the aircraft which was dealt with by the Military Fire Service and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The outcomes from the live exercise will now be used to test the other levels of command (Silver and Gold) in a multi-agency environment later on this year.

Useful Numbers	
Emergency Services:	999
Police Non-Emergency:	101
Shropshire Council Customer Services:	0345 678 9000
Environment Agency Floodline:	0345 988 1188
NHS 111 Service:	111
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service General Enquires:	01743 260 200



Points of contact

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Follow the Emergency Planning Unit on Twitter @ShropCaution

Giving Shropshire the heads up about potential disruption to local communities across the County.