

MAJOR EMERGENCIES & YOU

how to prepare what to expect

The chances of you being caught up in a major emergency or disaster are low. Nevertheless they happen and this leaflet shows you how you can be better prepared to protect yourself and others.

What is a major emergency?

Essentially a major emergency is something on a scale that needs special arrangements to deal with it, such as:

- Serious transport accidents (plane, train, motorway pile-up)
- Extreme weather - storms, flooding
- Major crime/terrorism/public disorder
- Explosion/fire/industrial accident
- Toxic chemical spillage/radioactive release
- Shortages of essential supplies - water, food, power etc.
- Infectious disease outbreak

The emergency services, local authorities, health trusts, voluntary agencies and the utility companies all have co-ordinated emergency plans in place. The aim is to save life, contain the hazard, protect the public and return to normality as soon as possible, but that task is made much easier if the public also know what to do in an emergency.

Being prepared for a major emergency also means that you can deal more effectively with minor ones. In most situations you will either need to seek immediate shelter from the threat or hazard or to move right away from it, so it makes sense to have a plan to do both. Useful steps you can take beforehand include:

- Make a **list of important contacts**, such as family, friends and neighbours, your children's school, your GP, veterinary surgery, your gas, water, electricity supplier, your insurers and so on. Carry this (wallet, handbag) and keep copies handy at home, at work or in the car.
- Arrange for a friend or relative out of your area to be the **family contact point** in case your family become separated during an emergency.
- Make up an **emergency pack** for home, work and the car (see below).
- Know how to **turn off** your gas, electricity and water supplies.
- Even if you normally listen to other stations know how to tune into your **local radio station** for public safety information in an emergency (see frequencies overleaf).
- Check that your insurance cover is up to date.
- If in a flood risk area keep a stock of empty **sandbags and sand**.

At home

Prepare an **emergency pack** containing:

- a battery-powered radio (with local radio frequencies marked)
- torch
- spare batteries
- first aid kit
- a copy of your contact list
- bottled water/canned drinks

Make an **evacuation checklist** of items to pack quickly if you are suddenly advised to leave your home. This list might include:

- your emergency pack (above)
- warm clothing
- essential medication and personal items eg glasses
- baby food, nappies
- wallet, purse and bank cards
- mobile phone and charger
- pet carrier/collar & lead etc (take pets with you if possible, as the emergency could be prolonged)

In the car

This may vary according to the time of year, but keep these items in the car as a basic **emergency kit**:




- | | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| • bottled water | } | All year round |
| • first aid kit | } | |
| • torch & batteries | } | |
| • cigar plug lead for mobile phone | } | |
| • sweets, longlife snacks | } | |
| • a blanket, warm tracksuit and woolly hat | } | October to May |
| • a waterproof coat | } | |
| • wellington boots | } | |
| • spare socks (can also be used as gloves) | } | |

At work

Know the emergency procedures for your workplace thoroughly.

In some situations you might have to remain at your workplace for safety. Your building may have good facilities but even so it could pay to think about what you would need if you had to stay overnight!

BE ALERT report anything unusual to the police **BE AWARE**

All written information is available, on request, in **larger** print, Braille  on audio tape  and on disk . It is also available in other languages. Please contact 023 8083 2427

EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

Type of Emergency	Beforehand	During/After
Severe gale/storm (forecast gusts over 70mph)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure outdoor items Bring pets indoors Close doors and windows Draw curtains in case of flying glass Check on vulnerable neighbours Monitor TV/radio weather warnings (but unplug external TV aerial during thunderstorms!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay indoors until storm passes Check for damage, make safe if possible Beware fallen cables, weakened trees, loose masonry etc.
Flooding eg a "Flood Warning" or "Severe Flood Warning" is issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move possessions to a higher level Protect doorways and airvents with sandbags or floodboards Monitor TV weather reports, and the Environment Agency's Floodline 0845 911 1188 or website at:- www.environment-agency.gov.uk Flood warnings are also on Ceefax page 419 & Teletext page 169 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your home is flooded turn off gas, electricity and water supplies Move upstairs if possible If trapped in deep flooding stay by a window and call for help When water recedes DON'T switch gas etc back on until systems are inspected DO throw away food that has been in contact with flood water
Toxic chemical or radiation release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go indoors and stay there Bring pets inside too Close outside doors, windows, air vents Turn off fans - hot air heating systems, ventilation, etc. Cover all unsealed fresh food Listen to your local radio station for further advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DON'T go outside until told it is safe to do so DON'T try to collect children from school unless instructed to - they will be looked after DON'T use rainwater, or eat locally grown vegetables until told they are safe

GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN*	Need more information?	Emergency Contact Numbers:																						
BROADCAST INFORMATION Emergency information will be broadcast on: TV: BBC1, BBC2, Meridian TV, Southampton Television Radio: BBC Radio Solent (96.1 MHz FM, 99.9MHz) Ocean FM (96.7, 97.5 MHz FM) Wave FM (105.2 MHz FM) Power FM (103.2 MHz FM)	Visit Southampton City Council's Emergency Planning web pages at: www.southampton.gov.uk/advice/emergencies/emergency-planning Or contact: Emergency Planning Unit Southampton City Council Southbrook Rise 4-8 Millbrook Road East Southampton SO15 1YG Tel: 023 8083 2427 Email: emergency.planning@southampton.gov.uk Fax: 023 8083 2043	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Telephone Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Telephone Number																				
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(Don't forget to keep these numbers up to date!)

For urgent assistance (police, fire, ambulance) always dial 999. In the event of fire, **GET OUT and STAY OUT!**

Otherwise: **GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN**