



Media release

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## Emergency planning needs to consider pets

Local families are being urged to remember to include their pets when drawing up plans to respond to unexpected emergencies, such as severe weather, traffic disruption or power failures.

The advice, from emergency response partners within the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum (BLLRF), is especially important as the Easter holiday break approaches.

Chairman of BLLRF, Assistant Chief Constable Kath Govier from Bedfordshire Police said:

“Emergencies, by their nature, occur when we least expect them. The police and other emergency services are always on hand to respond to such situations.

“However, every family should have its own emergency plan so that each member knows what to do when the unexpected strikes. Experience shows that people often put their own lives in danger in an effort to rescue their pets.

“Millions of people throughout the UK are currently celebrating life with their pets and spreading the word on responsible pet ownership during National Pet Month, so it is an appropriate time for families to think about how they would care for their pets if their normal routine was disrupted by a serious emergency.”

BLLRF supports the ‘*What would you do if...?*’ campaign which aims to help everybody living or working within Bedfordshire and Luton to be prepared and consider what they would do if faced with an emergency. Log onto [www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk](http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk).

National Pet Month is a registered charity, bringing together animal welfare charities, professional bodies, pet businesses, schools, youth groups and pet lovers, with the common goal of improving the welfare of pets. The trustees are National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), Pet Food Manufacturers’ Association (PFMA) and Pet Care Trust (PCT).

To find out if your property or business is at risk of flooding, and to get early warnings, go to [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188

The 'What would you do if...?' campaign, supported by the BLLRF, aims to help everybody living or working within Bedfordshire and Luton to be prepared and consider what they would do if faced with an emergency. Visit [www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk](http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk).

Residents can sign up as an emergency volunteers by joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC). This is a local partnership of charities, community groups and volunteers who work together as part of BLLRF to prepare for, and respond to emergencies. For more information please email [volunteering@bllrf.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@bllrf.org.uk) or call us on 01462 611145.

**Notes to editors:**

BLLRF was formed in 2004, bringing together the key agencies required to respond to emergencies.

Comprising local agencies including the emergency services, local authorities, National Health Service (NHS) and the voluntary and community sector, the forum was created to ensure the best possible plans are in place should a major emergency occur.

BLLRF's vision is to make Bedfordshire and Luton the best-prepared place for any emergency. Through the '*What would you do if...?*' campaign, the forum aims to promote the importance of being prepared and ensure people living and working within the county feel safe. For more information visit [www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk](http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk)

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