



Media release

15 August 2011

Local resilience forum issues safety advice to local businesses

A local government emergency resilience forum is asking businesses to review their continuity plans in the wake of riots across the UK last week.

Although Bedfordshire has been largely unaffected, the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum (BLLRF), made up of partners including local councils, police and the NHS, is asking local businesses to check their emergency planning procedures and ensure they are robust enough to respond if there were incidents of unrest.

The forum has provided advice on business continuity and resilience on its website

<http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/>. Information includes how businesses will be kept informed during emergency, details of business continuity plans and how to get started. There is also a section on how to secure business premises.

Chairman of BLLRF, Assistant Chief Constable Katherine Govier from Bedfordshire Police said: "Our advice to businesses is to remain calm, vigilant and contact the police if an incident occurs. We have been posting regular updates on Ringmaster, our computerised crime messaging system which businesses can easily join by calling 01234 275288, or 01582 394023.

"Safety should be an absolute priority, but it makes good business sense to regularly review safety, security and continuity measures anyway. Business owners and managers should have a plan in place for any type of emergency.

“We understand businesses are concerned about the threat of unrest but we would like reassure the public that we are working extremely hard to ensure this does not happen and have extra officers on duty to protect the community.”

For more information and advice about business continuity visit <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/> or go to <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif> You can also view share emergency planning advice on http://twitter.com/#!/what_would

Ends

Notes to editors:

For media inquiries, please contact Satnam Wahiwala at Athene Communications on 01733 207340, email satnam@athene-communications.co.uk

1. 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

2. Bedfordshire residents are most at risk of the following emergencies:
 - [Flu pandemic](#)
 - [Major river flooding](#)
 - Low temperatures or heavy snow
 - [Transport accident involving fuel or explosives](#)
 - [Fuel supply disruption](#)

3. Sign up as an emergency volunteer 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 or call us on 0300 300 4145.