



Media release

18 October 2011

## **Businesses across Bedfordshire prepare for disaster**

Businesses from across Bedfordshire are putting together emergency plans to help their organisations survive disasters after attending a business continuity workshop this month at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre.

The free workshop was organised by Business Link and the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum to help local businesses prepare for disasters such as flood, fires and terrorism.

During the session, businesses were taught how to use free tools to help assess the most vulnerable parts of their organisations, and put measures in place to assist companies withstand a major natural or man-made disaster.

Iain Berry, Central Bedfordshire Council's Chief Emergency Planner explains "Effective planning before an emergency can mean the difference between surviving or thriving. This event helped businesses look at what they can do to prepare for emergencies but without spending lots of money.

"The event was a great success and very well attended. We definitely hope to organise more events like this in the future but in the meantime businesses can visit <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/> for more information on how to prepare for disasters."

Local businessman David Bignell from CC Training in Leighton Buzzard, attended the event and said "We have been looking to review our contingency plans for a while. As a result of the session I now know where to find free business continuity tools, what to plan for and how to plan. Following the workshop we are putting contingency measures in place in case there is a fire or flood.

“Attending this free work shop showed us that you don’t have to spend lots of time and money to put an emergency plan in place. It hasn’t taken very long at all and hopefully taking a little bit of time out now will mean our business will survive, should the worst happen.”

For more information about business continuity and planning for emergencies visit <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/> or you can follow BLLRF on Twitter @what\_would and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif>

## Ends

### Notes to editors:

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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](http://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](mailto:volunteering@bllrf.org.uk) or call us on 0300 300 4145.