

Media release

8 November 2011

Resilience forum urges motorists to carry emergency kits following M5 crash



Following the tragic M5 car crash which resulted in seven fatalities and over fifty people being injured last weekend, a local resilience forum is urging residents to carry emergency kits in their cars.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum is encouraging residents to carry essential items such as warm clothes, a torch, a first aid kit and food to help keep them warm and comfortable if an accident occurs.

BLLRF Chair and Bedfordshire Police Assistant Chief Constable, Katherine Govier, said “ The M5 car crash last week was a tragedy and our thoughts go out to families of all those who were involved.

“Investigations are still ongoing into the cause of the crash but the incident is a reminder that motorists should be prepared for emergencies on the road. If an accident occurs travellers can be at a standstill for a number of hours. Having an emergency kit in your car will help makes those hours more comfortable, particularly if you have children or elderly people in the car. Putting a kit together will only take a few minutes but you never know when you might need it.”

Even usually short journeys may turn into lengthy ones because of traffic incidents such as these. Therefore when planning for a car journey it is useful to have some basic items alongside or part of your emergency kit such as:

- Bottles of water
- Non – perishable food such as crackers, nuts, cereal bars and dried fruit
- Chocolate and/or sweets

With winter approaching, BLLRF also recommends that you prepare now for the challenges that some weather, such as snow can create. You can do this by packing the following items in your emergency car kit:

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas
- Sunglasses (the glare off snow can be dazzling)

Motorists may also find it useful to check journey conditions on <http://www.trafficengland.com/>

For more information about emergency planning advice go to <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/>

Residents can receive updates and also share their own emergency planning advice on http://twitter.com/#!/what_would and <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif>

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](#)

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 membership@bllrf.org.uk or call us on 07716 744923.