



Media release

7 December 2011

## **Over a quarter of Bedfordshire residents would save pets in an emergency**

Over a quarter of local residents would save their pets first in an emergency according to a survey carried out by the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum (BLLRF).

BLLRF surveyed residents across Bedfordshire to ask questions related to emergency planning and how they would react in an emergency. Of those surveyed, 27 per cent said they would save their pets in an emergency with an equal number of residents saving precious photographs. Only 15 per cent opted to save family members.

BLLRF Chair and Bedfordshire Police Assistant Chief Constable, Katherine Govier, said: "In an emergency it is important to act quickly, we recommend each household has an evacuation plan so you know exactly what you would do if an emergency such as a flood or fire occurred. The survey reveals Bedfordshire is a very pet-friendly county, and our emergency advice actually states residents should take their pets with them in emergencies. Facilities will be available for animals at every rest centre.

"Our website <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/> contains details of how to create an evacuation plan for your household. It is also a good idea to have an emergency kit with water, non-perishable food and basic medical essentials at home or in the car to help make your first few hours in emergency situation more comfortable. Obviously in a fire we recommend you evacuate immediately but in some situations it might be possible for you to take your kit with you."

As the harsh winter weather approaches, BLLRF is embarking on a winter weather campaign to help residents stay warm and safe through the cold weather. 'A preparing for winter section' has been added to the <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/>. BLLRF will also be tweeting emergency planning advice on @what\_would and posting advice on <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](#)

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](mailto:membership@bllrf.org.uk) or call us on 07716 744923.