



Media release

27 September 2011

Planning to Avoid Disaster business workshop

Business Link has teamed up with the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum to host a free workshop to help businesses prepare for emergencies.

The 'Planning to Avoid Disaster' session will take place on Thursday 6th October from 3pm -5pm, at Putteridge Bury Conference Centre. The workshop aims to prepare businesses for emergencies such as severe weather, civil unrest, fires and flu pandemics.

At the two hour session, businesses will learn about the support available to them, free tools to help them prepare, how to identify vulnerabilities and how to survive a disaster.

Chairman of BLLRF, Assistant Chief Constable Katherine Govier from Bedfordshire Police said: "Many small businesses lost thousands of pounds after the UK riots due to their business being unprepared for the circumstances. The Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum has arranged an event to help you think about how your business can prepare for the unexpected and really make you think about "What would you do if...?"

Speakers include the former Assistant Director Civil Contingencies at the Cabinet Office, who will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice.

Details can be found on <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/> or by calling the Business Link booking line on Business Link booking line on 0845 601 1000.

Ends

Notes to editors:

For media enquiries, 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.