

What Would You Do If..?

Newsletter



Preparing Bedfordshire residents for emergencies



In this edition...

- Buy heating oil early this winter
- Create an emergency kit
- BLLRF helps scouts 'Be Prepared'
- Improving community resilience
- Businesses prepare for disaster
- The BLLRF community stall
- Midshire Search and Rescue
- National Flooding Week

follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/what_would

Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif





What Would You Do If...? Newsletter



Buy heating oil early this winter

Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum is urging residents to prepare for winter by placing early orders for heating oil and avoiding the kind of disruptions faced by many following last winter's prolonged cold weather .

The elderly and those in rural communities are most at risk of suffering if heating oil demand exceeds supplies, or if deliveries are disrupted by snow and ice on the road.

BLLRF Chair and Bedfordshire Police Assistant Chief Constable, Katherine Govier, said: "This Government – backed campaign aims to ensure vulnerable residents don't suffer should

there be fuel disruptions or excessive fuel demand which cannot be met. We understand that in a recession it might be difficult to buy in advance, but the price of oil is actually lower now and demand is not as high as it will be in the run up to Christmas.

"As a local resilience forum BLLRF is responsible for preparing residents for emergencies and so we actively encourage residents to stock up on their heating oil before the cold weather takes hold.

"As a local resilience forum BLLRF is responsible for preparing residents for emergencies and so we actively

encourage residents to stock up on their heating oil before the cold weather takes hold.

"Unfortunately there have been some incidents of oil thefts in the county, we strongly advise you, whether you place an early order or not, to store your oil in a safe and secure location. It would be advisable to store your tank out of sight or away from the roadside and install security lighting in the storage area. A lockable steel tap cap (similar to those fitted on padlocks on gates) will also help secure your oil tank."

"Remember the unique needs of your family members when making your emergency supply kit "

Create an emergency kit



Preparing against an emergency situation is simple and won't take long.

The important thing to remember is the basics; fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

- **Water:** 7 pints (4 litres) of water per person per day for at least three days, for

drinking and sanitation

- **Food:** at least three days' supply of non-perishable food

- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries or wind-up radio

- Torch and extra batteries

- **First aid kit:**
- Whistle to signal for help
- **Dust mask:** to help to filter contaminated air
- Wet wipes, rubbish/bin bags and plastic ties for personal hygiene
- Wrench or pliers to turn

off utilities
Tin opener for food (if kit contains tinned food).

Remember the unique needs of your family members when making your emergency supply kit and family emergency plan.

Log on to www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/ for information about additional items to add to your emergency kit.

To encourage other residents to prepare their own emergency kits and to share ideas about content, please upload a picture of your emergency kit to <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif>

What Would You Do If...? Newsletter



BLLRF helps scouts 'Be Prepared'



Emergency planners helped a group of scouts prepare for emergencies, as part of the What Would You Do If...? campaign to help local residents plan for emergencies such as floods and fires.

Mark Conway and Iain Berry, emergency planners from Central Bedfordshire Council, part of the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum, helped explorer scouts aged 14-18

think about how they would manage if an emergency in Potton occurred. The scout group were given a real-life scenario and with the help of a board game they were asked how they would manage evacuees, the emergency services and the media.

Mark Conway explains: "We're trying to help communities become more resilient and the best way to do this is to meet residents and encourage them to think about what they would do during an emergency.

"Residents can take very simple steps such as adding an emergency contact in

their phone, putting together an evacuation plan for their families and creating an emergency kit for their homes. These measures take minutes but can prove invaluable should a disaster occur."

Scout leader Samuel Gravestock adds: "Being prepared is central to the scouts' philosophy so this session was ideal."

If you are interested in developing a community emergency plan for your community group please email admin@athene-communications.co.uk

Improving community resilience

BLLRF is launching a community resilience project to encourage communities to develop their own community emergency plans and improve community resilience and assist emergency responders during an emergency.

Emergencies will always happen. Emergency responders such as the police, medics and fire fighters will always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency but your life is not in immediate danger. During this time, individuals

and communities may need to rely on their own resources to ensure they are able to cope with the consequences of the emergency. Many communities already spontaneously help one another in times of need, but previous experience has shown that those who have spent time planning and preparing for this are better able to cope, and recover more quickly.

Volunteering and helping one another does not need to be organised by central or local government. Local people who are prepared and able to respond effectively and recover quickly from emergencies show us how

successful community resilience can be. This activity is most successful when in partnership with local emergency responders.

By building on existing local relationships and networks, using local knowledge and preparing for risks, your community will be better able to cope during and after an emergency.

The community resilience projects will provide a one-stop shop for communities wishing to improve their resilience. The project is still in its initial stages but if you are interesting in becoming involved please contact communityresilience@bllrf.org.uk

follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/what_would

f Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif



whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk



What Would You Do If...? Newsletter



Businesses prepare for disaster



Businesses from across Bedfordshire are putting together emergency plans to help their business survive disasters after attending a business continuity workshop this week.

The free workshop was organised by Business Link and BLLRF 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 help 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 small businesses look at what they can do to

prepare for emergencies but without spending lots of money.

Local businessman David Bignell from CC Training in Leighton Buzzard, attended and said: "As a result of the session I now know where to find free business continuity tools, what to plan for and how to plan.

It hasn't taken very long to put a contingency plan in place and hopefully taking a little bit of time out now will mean our business will survive, should the worst happen."

"Effective planning before an emergency can mean the difference between a business surviving or thriving"

The BLLRF community stall



The Bedford and Luton Local Resilience Forum has created the What Would You Do If...? events stall to take to local fetes, family fun days and community events to prepare the residents of Bedfordshire and Luton for emergencies.

Visitors to the stall can receive advice about planning for an emergency, pick up literature with useful advice on how to start planning for an emergency in the home, complete an emergency postcard and learn how to prepare an emergency kit. There is even a kid's colouring corner, where children can complete worksheets and win a Peppa Pig fire engine.

After the events, visitors are encouraged to take photos and videos of them putting their newly acquired emergency planning advice into practice and uploading them on to <http://>

www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif

The stall is ready to taken to any community event within the Bedfordshire and Luton area. If you would like the stall at your event please contact satnam@athene-communications.co.uk or call 01733 207 340. There is no charge. We can also promote your events on our Twitter feed [@what_would](https://twitter.com/what_would)

What Would You Do If...? Newsletter



Midshire Search and Rescue



Who are we?

Midshires were established in 1999. We are a group of volunteers with a common purpose – we help the police to search for missing people 24/7 any day of the year.

Why are we needed?

Every month, across our area many people are reported missing to the police. Most turn up or are found quickly, but if they don't the police may decide to call in Midshires.

Are there other search teams?

Yes! We belong to ALSAR (the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue). ALSAR members provide voluntary cover for most lowland areas in the

British Isles.

What is our area?

We are primarily used by Beds and Herts police forces as well as the Milton Keynes division of Thames Valley police but can be called to incidents across the UK!

Why are we useful?

We are trained and professional in our approach! We meet one evening and one weekend every month. The search skills needed are learned and practiced together so our members are versatile and competent in many team roles.

What will you learn?

- Search theory and techniques
- Use of radio communications
- Navigation with map, compass and GPS
- Water safety
- First aid
- Effective teamwork

Interested?

There are many ways to help us.

Get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

Email us at -
enquiries@midshires.org.uk

follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/what_would

f Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif



whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk



Bedfordshire and Luton
Local Resilience Forum
working together in an emergency

What Would You Do If..? Newsletter



National Flooding Week

The Environment Agency is launching 'Flood Week' (w/c 14th November) to raise awareness of flood risk and communicate the importance of flood risk to home-owners and business owners.

One in six properties in England and Wales are at risk of flooding – to find out if yours is one of them go to www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodanglian



be prepared for flooding!

Call Floodline now to check your flood risk

- sign up to receive flood warnings from Floodline Warnings Direct
- check your insurance cover for flooding
- make a list of important contact numbers
- put together a flood kit of essential items
- make a flood plan

Floodline
0845 988 1188



Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 to check your flood risk, register for flood warnings and for strong stream advice.
Visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodanglian for more information.

What Would You Do If Newsletter
Please send your articles and feedback to:
admin@athene-communications.co.uk

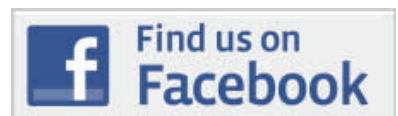
BLEVEC contact:
Linda Daniel
information@blrf.org.uk

Next issue:

We'll be revealing the results of the What Would You Do If...? Survey 2011 and the winner of the iPad2.

follow us on
twitter

twitter.com/what_would



facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif