



WEST YORKSHIRE PREPARED

YOUR SERVICES WORKING TOGETHER

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GUIDANCE

Prepare, Respond, Recover

A guide to help you on your journey to building resilience in your community.

[www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk)

# BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

A resilient community is one which can respond and recover more quickly from emergencies or major incidents limiting disruption to individuals. By being prepared, informed and connected, your community will be able to cope better with disruption in the event of a major emergency. There are five simple steps you can take to strengthen resilience in your community.

01.

## Make a plan

Having an up-to-date Community Response Plan is essential to ensure an effective response to an emergency or major incident. It contains all the necessary information, resources, knowledge, skills and contacts in one place allowing easy access for group members so they can act swiftly, stay calm and respond quicker.

If you haven't already made a plan, visit our website to find all the information you need to get started:

[www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk/community-response-planning](http://www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk/community-response-planning)

02.

## Stay informed

Stay up to date on local risks to ensure you're informed and ready to respond. Sign up to official alerts, check out the West Yorkshire Community Risk Register: [www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk), and ensure you're familiar with trusted bodies who will be able to provide reliable information in an emergency.

- Environment Agency flood alerts and warning services.
- Met Office weather warnings and alerts.
- Local TV and Radio.
- Online social media and news sites.

03.

### Capabilities and skills

Your community is likely to have people, organisations and businesses with useful skills or equipment that can help in an emergency. Take time to identify what support is available, what they can offer and how to contact them. This could include help with staffing a safe place, providing food and drink, offering practical support or supplying equipment such as generators or catering facilities. Where possible, make contact in advance so they are aware of your plans and how they could help.

04.

### Communicate early

If an emergency happens, one of the first actions to take is to talk to others in your group/community to find out what's happening so you can share accurate and up to date information with others. Encourage neighbours, friends and family to:

- Sign up to official alerts and warnings.
- Sign up to the priority services register offered by utility companies.
- Learn about the risks in your community.

05.

### Build connections

Strong connections are the backbone of resilient communities. Building relationships, and developing support systems within your community will help before, during, and after emergencies or major incidents.

- **Connect to your community** - Research clubs, societies, charities and faith groups in your area
- **Join social media groups** - Local social media pages will help you find out what is happening in your area.
- **Get to know your neighbours** - Neighbouring communities may have had experiences with emergencies - talk to them, find out what had happened and how they responded.
- **Talk about resilience** - Talk to friends, family and neighbours.

# NEXT STEPS

Some groups choose to seek funding or support to develop their plans further. This could be for equipment, training or community activities. Possible sources of support include:

- National Government Home Schemes
- Utility Companies funding programmes
- The National Lottery
- National Businesses
- Community Fundraising pots
- Speak to Local Authority Emergency Planning Officers

**Test and exercise** Working with other community members, think about risk scenarios that may affect your area, and what you might do if there was an emergency or major incident? This can help you plan the actions you might take during an incident.

West Yorkshire Prepared has a ready-made tabletop exercise you can use to test your group's response to various scenarios. Contact them at [wyrf@westyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:wyrf@westyorkshire.police.uk) to arrange for them to attend a community group meeting.

Building community resilience takes time, commitment and patience. Every community is different, so it is important to start with what you already have and build gradually. If you need any help or support, visit our website [www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk](http://www.westyorkshireprepared.org.uk)