



**SOMERSET LOCAL AUTHORITIES'
CIVIL CONTINGENCIES PARTNERSHIP
(SLACCP)**

Community Resilience

**A short brief on Emergency Planning
to
Kilve Parish 26 November 2013**

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Avon & Somerset Multi-Agency Response Framework

The Avon & Somerset Local Resilience Forum¹ (LRF) sits at the apex of Avon & Somerset's local civil protection arrangements. A number of organisations and agencies are categorised as responders under the CCA² and they have a duty to plan and prepare for emergencies in co-operation with one another. The local authorities in Somerset have formed a Partnership³ to deliver their duties under the Act are identified as Category 1 responders. The LRF brings together all agencies to prepare and plan for the emergency response and recovery. These arrangements include the framework for the command, control and co-ordination of the response by individual agencies within their own organisation and the management of the multi-agency response to an emergency

What is an emergency?

- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to **human welfare** in a place in the UK.
- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to the **environment** in a place in the UK.
- **War or terrorism** which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK.

Source: Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Community Resilience

Community Resilience is further defined as the ability of a local community to respond to and recover from emergencies. Local communities have an important role to play in major emergencies or local disruptive challenges. The emergency services will always prioritise their response to those in greatest need. In consequence, in the event of a widespread emergency the response to a remote or isolated community might be delayed.

Community Resilience is about communities using local resources and knowledge to help themselves during an emergency in a way that complements the local community services

Government Policy. The Government has set a National Strategy for Community Resilience, which sets out to:

- Increase individual, family and community resilience against all threats and hazards.
- Encourage and support local and community organisations to take ownership and carry out resilience work in their area.
- Local responders will be expected to provide support in community resilience activities when asked.
- Community members should not put themselves or others at risk during an emergency.

¹ The Avon & Somerset Police Area covering the following top-tier LA geographic areas: South Gloucestershire, Bristol City, Bath & NE Somerset, North Somerset and Somerset.

² Civil Contingencies Act 2004

³ Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership

SLACCP Community Resilience Strategy.

Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit (SLACCP) community resilience strategy is based on the following:

- Encourage the general public to make self-help preparations.
- Encourage individual communities to develop self help plans.
- Detailed planning should be undertaken at community level with advice and support from SLACCU.
- Detailed work to recognise the ability of communities to care for themselves and evacuees sent to their area.

The strategy recognises that local communities have a vital role in response and recovery utilising local resources, knowledge and expertise

The strategy will:

- Build on the Government's national strategy and existing work from the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Partnership (SLACCP).
- Provide additional information, where appropriate, to local communities.
- Encourage the development of parish/community plans and target support at "geographic communities".
- Conduct liaison with communities at district and parish level.
- Liaise with other agencies and networks to improve community resilience.

The Parish Emergency Plan

Answers to the following 3 questions can help to assess how prepared your community is and what you can do:

- Are you aware of the risks you and your community might face?
- How can you help yourself and those around you during an emergency?
- What can you do to get involved in emergency planning in your community?

What can communities do?

- Develop a Community Emergency Plan to cater for generic risks such as severe cold weather and response to becoming isolated due adverse weather.
- Develop a plan using the Environment Agency's Flood Plan and Flood Warden Scheme.

What is required?

- Willing volunteers to help the Parish Council to help identify the risks and resources available plus a contacts list of people who can help in an emergency.
- Some time given towards developing the Parish Emergency Plan.

What support is available to those developing the Plan? A number of agencies may be able to help:

- The local authorities through SLACCU can provide a plan template.
- The emergency services, particularly Police Beat Teams (Neighbourhood Watch) and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (community safety teams).
- Environment Agency flood risk teams.
- Voluntary agencies such as the British Red Cross and Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS).
- Community Council of Somerset.

Developing a Plan

- **Identify local risks**
- **Are there particular people/groups affected by those risks?**
- **Put in place measures to reduce the risk where appropriate or possible.**
- **Identify resources:**
 - **People**
 - **Facilities**
 - **Materials/equipment**
- **Contact details**
- **Write a simple plan and test it through exercise**

Measures that you may wish to consider may seem generic, but they will apply to a wide range of situations:

- Do some people need help to shelter or evacuate from their home?
- Is there a "place of safety" for people, especially vulnerable people to gather?
- Can you provide an emergency feeding centre (hot food) should power fail?
- Who has 4x4 vehicles that could help?
- Who has a generator that can be used in an emergency?
- Anyone in the area with special skills (e.g. medical/nursing)?
- Who can provide "good neighbour" support (e.g. shopping, collecting prescriptions in adverse weather)?

Support in Plan Development

The Civil Contingencies Unit (SLACCU) and the Environment Agency can give advice on writing a generic plan or flood plan respectively. Other agencies can also assist:

- With plan development
- Training and exercises
- Limited financial support through small grants to provide material support (sheds, equipment such as hi viz jackets, boots and signs).
- Advice when required.

Off-Site Nuclear Emergency at Hinkley Point

Background

There are three sites at the Hinkley Point Complex:

- **Hinkley Point A** is a decommissioning nuclear power station with some low level radioactive waste on-site. At present there is still a requirement for an Off-Site Plan and there is a possibility that measures to protect the public are required a few hundred metres outside the site perimeter.
- **Hinkley Point B** is an operational nuclear power station. In the event of a nuclear emergency a radioactive hazard that would require public protection measures extends 1 Km outside of the site perimeter.
- **Hinkley Point C** is a construction site and at present does not present a radiation hazard to the workforce or the general public.

Hinkley Point Off Site Plan

Under the national legislation (REPPPIR)⁴ Somerset County Council is the duty holder to maintain the multi-agency Off-Site Plan. The Plan provides the immediate response arrangements for the emergency services, local authorities, health services and other national and regional responders. The main objective of the Off-Site Plan is to maximise preparedness in order to minimise the response time.

Under the legislation for the “reasonably foreseeable accident” a detailed plan must be maintained to protect the general public within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ). The DEPZ is set a radius of 3.5 Km from Hinkley Point. Measures for the protection of the public within the DEPZ consist of:

- **Sheltering** (go in – stay in – tune in) after receiving a warning of an off-site nuclear emergency and applies to all residents whatever the wind direction.
- **Take Potassium Iodate Tablets** if the warning applies to Hinkley Point B only, these tablets are held by each household within the DEPZ.
- **Evacuation** in the event that the situation is serious enough to warrant this countermeasure and will be implemented initially in the downwind sector(s).

Residents within the DEPZ are provided with emergency instructions annually and stocks of Potassium Iodate include advice on storage and dosage. Additional measures are taken in the immediate area to restrict traffic entering the DEPZ and traffic control measures are taken on the highways.

In a “reasonably foreseeable accident” the general public beyond the DEPZ is not required to take any immediate public protection measures for their own safety or health.

REPPPIR Guidance recognises the concept of extendibility of detailed plans to provide for the basis for dealing with radiation emergencies that are **not** “reasonably foreseeable” (i.e. very low frequency, high consequence radiation emergencies). Therefore outline plans are required outside of the DEPZ using generic response plans of the Avon and Somerset LRF. The Off-Site Plan has arrangements for the implementation of evacuation and taking

⁴ Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001

Potassium Iodate Tablets out to 5 Km from Hinkley Point and sheltering in the downwind sector(s) beyond the DEPZ out to 15 Km.

Application of Hinkley Point Emergency Preparedness Arrangements to Kilve Parish

Kilve Parish is located within a Zone 5 – 10 Km from Hinkley Point, the village of Kilve being 7.5 Km from Hinkley Point (See Map 1). Therefore any potential measures for the protection of Kilve Parish residents would be in an "Extendibility Scenario" only. During a nuclear emergency the nuclear operator and the off-site emergency responders would take action:

- To bring the nuclear plant or reactor to a safe state.
- Assess radiation monitoring readings in the area around Hinkley Point.

This activity would be continuous and if necessary additional measures advised to protect the public. The Off-Site Plan includes additional arrangements to warn communities beyond the DEPZ if sheltering or evacuation was required. In the case of Kilve Parish residents would be warned by the Police and local authority of the need to take measures backed up by public information being provided by the local radio and TV. Action will be taken to assist communities to evacuate if that was considered necessary.

A local Parish Plan could well provide basic measures to assist in:

- Passing information to local residents.
- Support vulnerable people in shelter.
- Support the evacuation (an extreme measure).

The emergency services and local authorities would also provide assistance in the evacuation of residents if that measure is required.

Map 1: Kilve in relation to Hinkley Point

Zone X: 0 – 5 Km from Hinkley Point; Zone Y: 5 – 15 Km from Hinkley Point



Floods in West Somerset 2013



more details of what happened on the day

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