



Exercise 'Any Town'



DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM





Why are exercises beneficial?

- Bring volunteers together
- Training & familiarisation
- Recognise the importance of referring to the plan during an emergency
- Identify:
 - What works well
 - Improvements and amends



How will this work?

- Divide into groups of 3-4 people
- Team of facilitators
- Neutral 'any town' scenario
- Scenario will be updated via a series of "injects"
- Short feedback session on each inject
 - What already works well in the plan
 - Are any improvements or amendments required?



Background...



- The village has a community hall, two pubs, a primary school, a busy main road and around 200 properties. It is popular with tourists and hikers
- Brookside has a history of flooding
 - Most recently, 32 properties flooded from the Brook in 2012
 - Surface water has also been an issue, as has flooding from the minor watercourses.
- Brookside has a Community Emergency Plan
- You have supporting Flood Wardens

Scenario...

- Above average rainfall has been falling for the past 3 weeks
 - Ground is saturated and watercourses are high
- There have been a few near misses in this period, where the Brook has almost come out of bank
- Despite the flood history in Brookside, many residents are sceptical of their flood risk, referencing drainage works in 2013 as solving all issues
- There are no flood defences, only a flood warning service and sandbag store, last checked in 2012

Inject 1 – 10am, 13th October



- Met Office Severe Weather Warning for rain issued
 - Thunderstorms striking tomorrow
 - Potential to cause flooding of smaller, flashier watercourses
 - Some uncertainty over where & when they'll strike
- The Environment Agency have issued a Flood Alert ahead of the storms
 - Flooding is possible
 - Farmland and low lying roads likely to be affected
- **WHAT ACTIONS WOULD A FLOOD WARDEN TAKE AT THIS STAGE?**

Inject 2 – 7am, 14th October

- Very heavy rain since 5am
 - The Brook has risen significantly – it is only centimetres from coming out of bank in the village
- The Environment Agency issued a Flood Warning at 6am
 - This forecast suggested the community WILL flood at ~8.30am
 - An intense band of storm clouds will be passing over Brookside for the next few hours
- A lot of debris including large branches and a picnic bench have been washed from upstream and are backing up against the bridge
- Topsoil from the fields has washed down blocking some drains. As a result, surface water has pooled on the main road. The minor watercourse is already flooding some gardens.
- **WHAT ACTIONS WOULD A FLOOD WARDEN TAKE AT THIS STAGE?**



Inject 3 – 9.30am, 14th October

- Water has now entered properties
- The main road has flooded
 - Rush hour traffic has backed up
 - Some vehicles are trying to drive through the flood water
- Power has been lost to some of the community
- The school is concerned over safety of pupils who were dropped off for early morning club
 - Most other parents we communicated with or turned away
- The floodwaters are forecast to rise further
- **WHAT ACTIONS WOULD YOU TAKE AS A FLOOD WARDEN?**

Inject 4 – 12.30am, 14th October

- Flood water has continued to rise to an historic high
- The emergency services have received a high number of calls from Brookside
- Given the reported magnitude of the event and the risk posed by the fast moving, deep flood water, **responding agencies are going to set up a control point in Brookside**
- **HOW WOULD YOU HELP FACILITATE RESPONDERS?**

Inject 5 – 9.00am, 15th October

- Flood waters have receded, revealing the extent of the damage
- Thoughts now turn to recovery...





- We'll be here to answer questions, advise and encourage...
- Come and talk to us

Thank you all, on behalf of

DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

