

# Charney Bassett Parish Council

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## Emergency Plan

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### **1 Definition of an emergency**

A major accident or emergency is defined in the Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Plan (ref 1) as:-

A situation arising with little or no warning, causing or threatening to cause injury or death to numbers of people, or damage to property, which is outside the capability of the emergency services to deal with alone and which requires the special mobilisation, organisation and co-ordination of other services

Examples include: aircraft, train and motor vehicle crashes, fires explosions emissions of toxic fumes, freak storms, flooding and structural collapse of buildings. Such incidents occurring locally even on a relatively small scale could have a large impact on individual villagers or on the Village as a whole.

Village emergencies may also include lesser events where individual households need temporary housing, or other assistance. Friends and neighbours may provide help spontaneously but pre-planned action by the Village can be useful.

### **2 Background**

The Oxfordshire County Council has published an emergency plan for elected members and Parish Councils which covers the actions to be taken by OCC in the event of an emergency (ref 1). The Charney Bassett Parish Council (CBPC) Emergency Plan documents the actions to be taken locally particularly in the early stages of an emergency and seeks to identify help and actions which can be taken within the village before outside help arrives particularly in cases where there are more important events to deal with on a county or national scale. It duplicates the main points of contact with the OCC and emergency services which are listed in the OCC document so that efforts are co-ordinated without undue searching.

Other relevant publications have also been listed in References.

HM Government circulated a pamphlet in 2004 titled "Preparing for Emergencies - What you need to know" (ref 2) which gives householders advice on what to do in an emergency and how to prepare beforehand in case an emergency arises. The pamphlet covers the fitting of smoke alarms, escape from burning buildings and general preparations. It is recommended that everyone in the village should read and be familiar with this document. It is also important that the relevant preparations are implemented.

Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum is made up of local Emergency Services, Health Agencies, Local Authorities, the Military and Environment Agency. The members have produced a booklet, "Are you ready?" (ref 3) which covers how householders can prepare for emergencies by planning and having a few necessities to hand. The booklet also suggests the best action to be taken cope with various types of emergency. The

information given includes the frequencies of local radio stations and useful telephone numbers.

### **3 Types of Emergencies and specific action**

Further advice for individuals to cope with the following disasters is given in Ref 3

#### **3.1 Fire**

There are not any exceptional risks within the village such as the storage of explosives, however, higher risks may result from storage of inflammable items or from thatched roofs.

The main advice is “to get out and stay out” and call the Fire and Rescue Service (dial 999).

In the case of a very minor fire local action can be taken by use of a Fire Extinguisher or Fire Blanket but it is prudent to also dial 999.

#### **3.2 Flooding**

National Flood ‘Forum gives information on flood protection equipment online at [www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk)

Electrical/Gas/Oil/Water/Waste water services should be disconnected or switched off in a property which is likely to be imminently flooded. Householders should nominate a keyholder for their property who can carry out this task in case of the householders absence during an emergency.

#### **3.3 Heavy snow and extreme cold**

Paths and community areas should be cleared of snow. Icicles where they pose a hazard to residents or the public should be knocked down.

Where these tasks cannot be carried out by the property owner it is hoped that neighbours will be able to help.

#### **3.4 High winds**

Damage to overhead cables should be reported to Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution. It is inadvisable to touch damaged cables or adjacent structures even where it is thought that power has been disconnected. It is possible that power can be restored at any time if only temporarily. Where possible a warning should be posted.

Report fallen trees etc. where they are blocking roads or causing a danger to people or property.

#### **3.5 Hot weather**

Everyone should be alert to neighbours becoming unwell and call health services

#### **3.6 Infectious disease**

During an outbreak everyone should follow good hygiene and advice given by Health Services

### **3.7 Loss of power**

It is recommended that households should have alternative sources of power available, such as

- petrol or diesel generator
- battery systems possibly supplying an electronic inverter
- bottled gas for heating and cooking
- multiple sources of heating oil/electricity/solid fuel

It is stressed that such systems should be properly designed for the purpose such as ready made units available over the counter or installed by a tradesman.

In case of loss of electrical supply contact Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution.

### **3.8 Loss of Water Supply**

In the case of loss of water supply contact Thames Water.

In the case of water leak turn off the water supply at the inside stop cock or at the water meter outside the house.

Bottled water can be used for an emergency supply. Allow 1.5 to 2 litres per person per day.

### **3.9 Security incident**

Unlikely in Charney Bassett

## **4 General Action.**

### **4.1 Temporary emergency control centre**

For county and country wide emergencies it may be necessary to set up a village focal point

A radio receiver is required to obtain information from broadcasters' news items and public service announcements. Two way radio communications may be used (possibly through RAYNET) where landlines are congested or cut. Mobile telephones are of doubtful benefit in Charney.

The Village Hall could be used as a focal point unless advice is to remain indoors.

Copy of this document needs to be available to provide contact details and plan of action

Access to telephone and internet would be an advantage.

Anyone would be able to go to VH to obtain assistance or offer help to others.

PC/Clerk should assemble current information and coordinate immediate action and where needed contact emergency services or coordinators.

## 4.2 Checklist

### 4.2.1 Contact following for information exchange:

Oxfordshire County Council

Vale of White Horse District Council

Radio Oxford

Thames Valley Police

Fire and Rescue Service

Environment Agency

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution

Thames Water

### 4.2.2 Immediate Action

Any self help which is possible.

Check on elderly and vulnerable villagers

Request help from Fire and Rescue 'service

Request help from police

Request help from local military services

Request help from local people where vehicles or mechanical diggers or ladders etc are needed

## 5 Contact Details

Fire and rescue services emergency contact 999

Police non emergency contact 101

Environment Agency flood line 0845 988 1188

report incident 0800 80 70 60

Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution emergency contact 08000 72 72 82

Thames Water emergency contact number 0845 9200 800

Oxfordshire County Council 01865 792422

Vale of White Horse District Council 01235 520202

HPA 01235 831600

John Radcliffe Hospital A & E 01865 741166

NHS direct 01865 336800

## 5.1 Village contacts

Chairman of the PC	Mike Cox	868276
Vice Chairman of the PC	David Nellist	868593
Clerk to the PC	Stephen Cowlam	868318
Charney Army and access to flood control equipment	John Daglish	
CHAFT for access to the village hall	Jane Fry	
Villagers with first aid experience and training	David Roberts	868285
Neighbourhood Watch	Margaret Roberts	868285

## 6 References

- 1 OCC Emergency Plan - For elected members and Parish Council - February 1997
- 2 HM Government - Preparing for emergencies - What you need to know - 2004
- 3 Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum - Are you ready
- 4 VoWH Emergency Plan