

MORAY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING

The storms that hit in quick succession at the end of last year might seem like a distant memory, but for those affected the arrival of autumn and winter signals a season of risk.

Although a storm or adverse weather can appear at any time, we're a bit more concerned over the winter months and our emergency planning steps up a gear during this time. Regular weather checks are undertaken by The Moray Council Roads team and Emergency Planning Officer, who look at short and long-range forecasts.

We have been supporting Community Resilience Groups (CRG's) who are ready, willing and able to step up in an emergency that disrupts normal life. This could be a wide-scale power outage, similar to the one we experienced in Keith last year, or flooding event. The CRG's are local residents who each offer skills and resources to help those at risk in their community when an emergency happens. The CRG's are working on Emergency Plans that detail three key response themes: safe place, volunteers and asset and skills.

Download the MET Office app. If you are eligible, register on the priority services registers with your utility providers. We also recommend that you find out how to turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies to your home.

Preparing for Winter: Car Journeys

As we approach the winter months it's also a timely reminder for the drivers amongst us to start our preparations and plan our journeys. You might also want to put some of the following items in your car:

- A first aid kit
- Battery jump leads
- A torch and spare batteries
- A map for unplanned diversions
- A blanket
- A reflective warning sign

In cold weather, you should also take:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A shovel for snow
- Warm clothes and boots
- Some food, and a warm drink in a flask.

Be considerate of snow ploughs when heavy snow hits. Is your car restricting street access? Your road may not be cleared as a result. Moving your car in advance will allow the ploughs to work quicker.

What Should You Pack In Your Emergency Grab Bag?

You should keep enough food and water and other essentials at home for at least three days. Whether you have to stay in or get out, packing a small emergency kit will help you get through. Keep it in a safe place at home where you can reach it easily.

Your kit should be kept in a waterproof bag and the top ten things to include are:

- Radio with spare batteries or a wind up radio
- Torch with spare batteries or a wind-up torch
- First aid kit
- Important documents like birth certificates and insurance policies
- Bottled water and ready-to-eat food that won't go off. Pack a can opener if needed
- Spare keys to your home and car
- Spare glasses or contact lenses
- Toiletries and details of important medicines
- Pencil and paper, penknife, whistle
- Pet supplies

Always prioritise people over possessions.

However, if you have to leave your home, and there's time to gather them safely, you could also think about taking:

- Essential medicines
- Mobile phone and charger
- Cash and credit cards
- Spare clothes and blankets
- Games, books, a child's special toy
- What else is important to you and your family?

You could also consider moving (and securing) important possessions to the upper levels of your home if you're at risk of flooding e.g. essential documentation, photos, jewellery, medicines or your vehicles.

Moray Community Resilience: Information Event

On the 24th of November, the Joint Community Councils (JCC) of Moray hosted a 'Moray Community Resilience Information Event' in Elgin Town Hall. In attendance were CRG's from across Moray and other members of the public who are interested in progressing resilience initiatives in their community. The event was funded by the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund, awarded to the JCC.

Emergency Service representatives delivered information at the event to CRG's and answered questions they had relating to their emergency planning efforts. Services present included: Moray Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, The Scottish Government, SSEN, Scottish Gas Network, Scottish Water, the Scottish Flood Forum, British Red Cross, TSI Moray, Scottish Centre for Community Development, Scotia Medical and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

LET'S HELP EACH OTHER AND WORK TOGETHER:



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