

Coping With a Major Emergency

Some practical advice



Introduction

It is very unlikely that any of us will ever be caught up in an emergency or disaster, but by being informed and prepared we can significantly reduce risk to life and property in an emergency.

What type of incident does the Emergency Management Unit plan for?

The Emergency Management Unit produces plans/arrangements for:

- Severe weather
- Chemical incidents
- Pipeline emergencies
- Coastal pollution
- Transport incidents
- Safety at sports grounds
- Safety at major public events
- Harbours

...to name but a few

What happens in the event of a major emergency?

The emergency services are responsible for responding to major emergencies.

However, Cardiff Council has a significant role to play in a major emergency and will need to devote personnel and resources to help reduce the effects on the local community.

The primary functions of Cardiff Council are to...

- Support the emergency services
- Support and care for the local and wider community
- Use of resources to reduce the impacts of the emergency
- Co-ordinate the response of organisations other than the emergency services
- Take the lead role in rehabilitating the community and restoring the environment as the emphasis switches to recovery

The Emergency Management Unit has a 24 hour response function in the event of an incident.

How will I be kept informed during a major emergency?

Effective communication is vital during a major emergency. Incident updates will be released regularly, or via planned briefings to the local media.

Therefore, local television, radio, social media and newspapers will be vital as they will give news and information about the incident, including possibly announcing any emergency phone numbers.

Your local television stations are...

BBC One Wales
ITV Wales
S4C

Your local radio stations are...

BBC Radio Wales:

FM: 90.3 to 95.8

DAB: BBC Radio Wales

BBC Radio Cymru:

FM: 93.1 to 104.9

DAB: BBC Radio Cymru

Capital:

FM: 97.4 - 103.2

Heart:

FM: 105 - 106

Your local newspapers are...

Western Mail South Wales

South Wales Echo

Twitter

EVAC Cardiff: [@evaccardiff](https://twitter.com/evaccardiff)

Cardiff Council: [@cardiffcouncil](https://twitter.com/cardiffcouncil)

Western Power Distribution: [@wpduk](https://twitter.com/wpduk)

Welsh Water: [@DwrCymru](https://twitter.com/DwrCymru)

Facebook

EVAC Cardiff: <https://www.facebook.com/evaccardiff/>

In certain circumstances the police and/or other agencies may conduct door to door visits to relay public information. If the incident is long lasting, public information centres may also be set up.

How about the people involved?

Anyone unfortunate enough to be hurt will be given first aid and/or taken to hospital. Those who have to leave their homes and cannot go to friends or relatives will be cared for by Cardiff Council, which will open Rest Centres to provide temporary accommodation and basic food provision.

If homes are cut off or isolated, arrangements will be made by Cardiff Council to provide suitable assistance. The response to each case will vary, dependent upon the type and extent of the incident.

Cardiff Council, in conjunction with the Health Authority and other agencies, will advise on most welfare matters. In a large scale incident, a specialist centre may be established to provide a general welfare and counselling service. Other bodies that could provide support are...

- Health Authorities
- Government Departments
- Utility Services
- Voluntary Organisations

What happens in the aftermath of a major incident?

When the emphasis switches to recovery, Cardiff Council will take the lead role in facilitating the rehabilitation of the community and the restoration of the environment.

Local Authorities can become involved in supporting local communities who are faced with the trauma of having to confront revisiting of painful memories.

To ensure lessons are learnt and any criminal negligence punished, major incidents are subject to various investigations. These can be undertaken by various bodies dependent on the nature of the incident.

How can I prepare?

Above all, the primary message is to listen and comply with the instructions issued by the emergency services and council staff, as they are there to help you.

But before any emergency takes place, there are a number of things which you can do to be more prepared...

- Check that your home is adequately insured and that everything that you want to be covered is covered
- Make sure your property is in good order
- Learn how and where to turn off your water, electricity and gas supplies

It is also advisable to collect and maintain the following items as part of an emergency pack...

- List of helpful contacts (including family numbers and utility company numbers)
- Torch and spare batteries (or wind up torch)
- Portable radio and spare batteries (or wind up radio)
- Bottled water
- Long life food, that can be eaten cold if necessary e.g. cans of soup
- Cooking equipment (including tin-opener, utensils and cutlery)
- Blankets/ warm clothes
- First Aid kit and any prescription medication (including baby items)
- Copies of important documents e.g. home insurance, passport
- Small amount of money
- Pet and baby supplies (if relevant)

Where can I get further information?

For further details on emergency management in Cardiff...

EVAC Cardiff: <http://www.evaccardiff.co.uk/>

Or Contact Us

Address: Cardiff Emergency Management Unit
Room 151
City Hall
Cardiff
CF10 3ND

Email: emergencymanagement@cardiff.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/evaccardiff/>

Tel: 02920 871838