

# Bollington Emergency Resilience Plan



Photograph with kind permission from Jake Robertson, 2021

*Last revised, January 2022 by Cllr Sara Knowles*

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# Bollington Emergency Response Plan

## Introduction

Bollington Town Council may have an important role in the response and recovery from emergencies that affect the town, its residents, businesses and visitors. The Town Council will develop close and effective liaison with Cheshire East Emergency Resilience and other supportive organisations to ensure their deployment in case of emergency. Bollington Town Council and the wider community will often be able to act faster than other responding organisations due to having in-depth local knowledge and local mobilisation of resources.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for response to and recovery from an emergency. Emergencies may include those arising from flooding, extreme weather, acts of terrorism, transport accidents, industrial accidents, breach of infrastructure, disease and pandemics. A risk register outlining these is reviewed at least twice yearly by the Bollington Emergency Resilience Working Group alongside a more detailed plan. The purpose of this document is to outline the activation triggers and response in case of emergency. The local response and should be referred to alongside the Cheshire Emergency Response Manual <https://cheshireresilience.org.uk/docs/manual.pdf>.



The River Dean, upstream from Bollington, Ingersley Vale, July 2019

## General Emergency Response Plan

In all cases when an emergency is raised by Cheshire East, Emergency Services or other agency e.g. Environment Agency, National Government, The Met Office - the initial response from the Town Council shall be:

1. The Chair of this working group (see Appendix 5) or their substitute/other member of the Emergency Resilience Team contacts all Councillors and the Town Hall Team to inform everyone about the activation trigger (see below) and required immediate response. The communication will usually be via Facebook Messenger (first) or Microsoft Teams channel (if Facebook Messenger is not available).
2. Activate the community communication tree - The Chair or their substitute co-ordinates the communications, delegating responsibilities as required, including calling any online or physical meeting or deployment of people/resources.

## COMMUNICATION TREE:

- I) Emergency Services, Local Authority or Government Agency
  - II) Clerk and/or Chair
  - III) Town Hall Team and Councillors (Contact details at Appendix 1)
  - IV) Volunteer Network/Responders/Emergency Shelter Providers (see contacts details at Appendix 2 below)
- 
3. The response for the emergency is co-ordinated via the agreed communication channel and subject to the guidelines for each type of emergency below. Consult government or local authority guidance where available.
  4. Some of the actions to be taken to help the local authority if an evacuation is necessary in our community:
    1. Help police/local authority with door knocking.
    2. Tell emergency services who might need extra help to leave their home.
    3. Help to notify the community about the situation and provide clear, accurate. communication e.g. via local social media channels including the Bollington Resilience Action Group (BRAG), Bollington, The Official Bollington Facebook Groups; Bollington Town Council page, Twitter feed and Canalside Radio - 01625 576689 office@canalsideradio.net
    4. Activate/alert the Bollington Volunteer Network and mobilise volunteer support if needed.
    5. Identify the safest evacuation routes based on local knowledge.
    6. Mobilise local skills and resources as required – see list of contacts below on Page 18.
    7. Notify the Places of Safety if required – see list of contacts below on Page 19.

# Emergency Triggers and response

## 1. Natural hazards

### Flooding

#### Emergency response activation triggers - Flooding

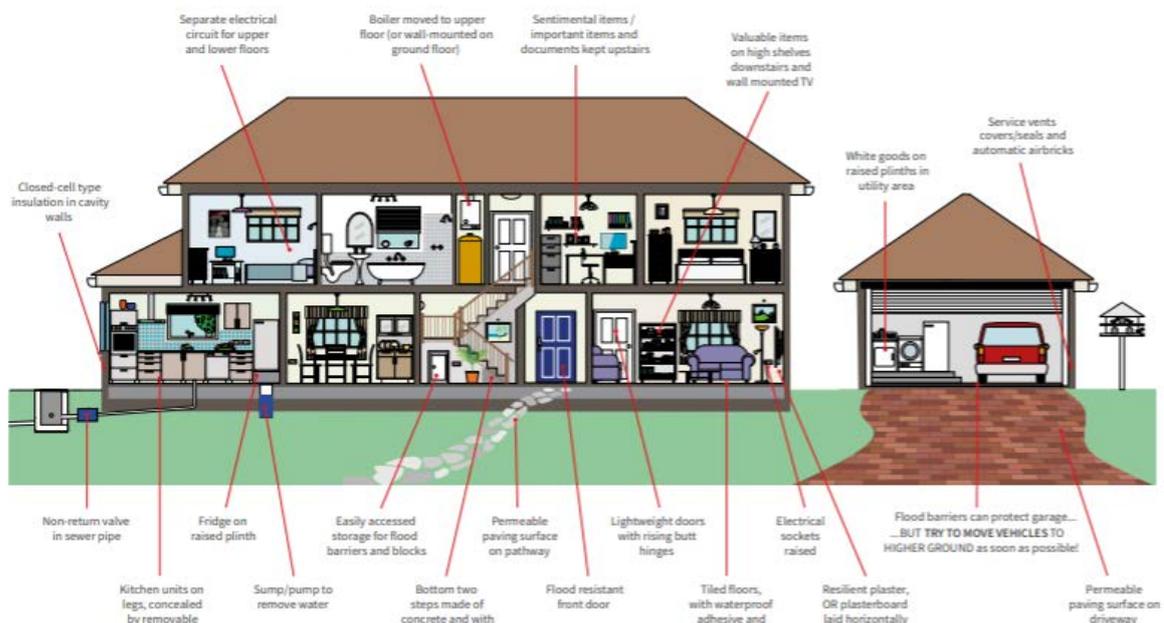
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>There are three flood warning codes:</p>  <p><b>FLOOD ALERT</b></p> <p>A Flood Alert means that flooding is possible and that you need to be prepared</p>  <p><b>FLOOD WARNING</b></p> <p>A Flood Warning means that flooding is expected and that you should take immediate action. You should take action when a flood warning is issued and not wait for a Severe Flood Warning.</p>  <p><b>SEVERE FLOOD WARNING</b></p> <p>A Severe Flood Warning means that there is severe flooding and danger to life. These are issued when flooding is posing significant risk to life or disruption to communities.</p> | <p>In the event there is a flood warning the Town Council should monitor the situation locally and liaise with local authorities for advice and follow the General Emergency Action Plan. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- alerting the local volunteer network to be on standby to support local communities and vulnerable members of the community.</li><li>- ensuring the flood warning and flood resilience measures are communicated via local networks including the Bollington Facebook Groups and by word of mouth, which may include door-knocking where safe to do so.</li></ul> <p>Home and business owners should take measures to protect their properties and assets.</p> <p>The Town Council will liaise with local emergency services and refer to Cheshire's Multi-agency Flood Response Plan (see below) to obtain advice on the steps required to support the community.</p> |
|--|---|

**Response:** The following guidance posted on the Bollington Facebook Groups (Bollington, The Official Bollington and Bollington Resilience Action Group (BRAG)). Where possible a post should be placed on the Bollington Town Council website and also shared through Facebook Group channels.

# Guidance for residents from the Town Council

Written and verbal communications via social media and Canalside Radio to include:

- Details of the flood alert based on facts and official sources e.g. Emergency Services, Environment Agency - include facts only.
- Explain what actions are being taken to alleviate the risks to life, property and other assets. This may include the deployment of local resources listed in the Local Responders section below.
- Instruct residents and business owners to check their personal and home safety and refer to <https://thefloodhub.co.uk>
- Residents should:
  - o identify vulnerable people and properties and advise them of the flood risk: ensure they are able to turn off gas and electricity if required.
  - o Identify any flood defence actions that can be taken to divert flood water away from homes and businesses (see below) – identify skills and resources that can be activated to assist with this.
  - o The Town Council and the wider community can check flood alerts and warnings here: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>



## Other Useful Links - Flooding

**Government website** – advice on checking flood risk and how to prepare for and recover from flooding

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>

### **Cheshire Multi-agency Flood Response Plan**

<https://cheshireresilience.org.uk/docs/manual.pdf>

### **The Flood Hub – Cheshire**

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/your-local-area/cheshire/>

## Links – Community Resilience and Risk Register

Cheshire Resilience Forum Website - [www.cheshireresilience.org.uk](http://www.cheshireresilience.org.uk)

Cheshire Resilience Forum Community Risk Register - [www.cheshireresilience.org.uk](http://www.cheshireresilience.org.uk)

### **Cheshire East Highways**

To report road surface water and drainage flooding issues.

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/highways\\_and\\_roads.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/highways_and_roads.aspx)

### **Cheshire East – Flooding and flood investigation reports**

Includes advice for residents and businesses, what to do during and following a flood and advice on flood recovery support.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/flooding.aspx>

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/flood-investigations.aspx>

## Drought and severe heat – including wildfires

In the Bollington area, drought or periods of dry, hot weather increase the risk of moorland (peat) and woodland fires. Consequences of wildfires may include: potential fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; potential evacuation and shelter of affected people; damage to property and infrastructure; minor disruption to essential services (particularly Fire and Rescue Services 'availability'); and environmental damage, air pollution and potential water contamination.

## **Activation Triggers:**

Visible danger from fire and/or warning from the local Fire Service or other emergency service.

**Response:** Leverage local volunteer network to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for during drought conditions. In the event of fire contact the local fire service by calling 999.

For land owners, the Forestry Commission's Practice Guide can be used not only for forests and woodlands, but also high risk habitats such as grasslands, arable, mountain, moorland and heathlands. This guidance is also used for Defra's 'Countryside Stewardship' applications and certain forestry Environmental Impact Assessments. Legitimate fires started for agricultural land clearance purposes should be closely monitored at all times. To report a fire, always call 999 and ask for the fire services.

Some fires are started maliciously. This is a crime and any related activity should be reported to the police or other appropriate local authority.

**Mitigate risks by:** Liaise with local fire service with regard to fire risks and ensure that residents and visitors are informed about risks and what to do in the case of a fire breaking out locally. Ensure that fire risks are reduced by informing residents and the public of the risks of fire associated with lighting fires, smoking or using barbecues in under hot/dry/drought conditions.

## **Heavy snow and severe cold**

Bollington experiences heavy snowfall from time to time for short periods during the winter months. The winter of 2016 saw heavy snowfall over a period of 2 weeks combined with high winds, 'The Beast from the East' and blizzard conditions. Some of the local roads were blocked or difficult to pass and footpaths and roads became treacherous for around 10 days. The likelihood of a similar event occurring in the next 5 years is medium-high.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Snow and ice severe weather warnings issued for the local area by the Met Office.

**Response:** Activate the General Emergency Response Plan. This will include leveraging the local volunteer network to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for.

**Mitigate the risks by:** Identifying the local people with resources and capability to assist with snow ploughing and rescue; ensuring streets with steep roads have maintained grit boxes available; ensure that Bollington and its surrounding road network is covered in CEC's gritting plan.

## Earthquakes and landslides

Earthquakes in the UK are moderately frequent but rarely result in large amounts of damage. An earthquake of sufficient intensity (determined on the basis of the earthquake's local effect on people and the environment) to inflict severe damage is unlikely. Damage from UK earthquakes is likely to be greatest in historic buildings such as churches, monuments and Victorian or Edwardian terraced housing. Landslides may result from seismic movement or hydrological factors such as heavy rainfall and flooding. Consequences of an earthquake or landslide may include: fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; potential evacuation and shelter of affected individuals; damage to property and infrastructure, particularly to older buildings; and minor disruption to essential services such as water or electricity.

Bollington is unlikely to be affected by earthquakes or landslides but it is not impossible.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Earthquake or landslide event declared or an official warning issued.

**Response:** Activate the General Emergency Response Plan. This will include leveraging the local volunteer network to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for.

## Poor air quality / atmospheric contamination

Short-term surges in poor air quality occur primarily due to weather conditions preventing pollution from dispersing, such as low winds, or when a layer of warmer air traps colder air close to the ground (known as 'temperature inversion'). Poor air quality is a risk to health, particularly for those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, and especially among children and the elderly. Consequences of poor air quality may include: fatalities and physical casualties, principally by compounding pre-existing health conditions; pressure on healthcare, particularly hospital referrals and demands on ambulances; economic damage; and environmental damage.

As Bollington is in a semi-rural area with very little heavy industry the air quality is relatively high. A change to this may occur if there is a regional/national-level incident e.g. industrial accident or other incident or a local incident e.g. emissions from a local industry or incident.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Incident declared by the Town Council/Local Authority/Emergency Service.

**Response:** The risk is very low but not impossible as it hosts a number of businesses that involve manufacturing and chemical processes. If Bollington were to be affected it is likely this would be handled as a national or local (Cheshire East) response, subject to national government guidance. Activate the General Emergency Response Plan. This will include leveraging the local volunteer network to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for.

**Mitigate risks by:** Ensuring that risks of local industries causing air or other forms of pollution are assessed.

## 2. Diseases

### Human diseases

COVID-19 has brought the risk and effects of pandemics to the forefront of the community's mind and we have developed experience of instating an emergency response and recovery plan since March 2020. Human diseases take a variety of forms, some of which have the potential to cause a civil emergency due to the number of people they might affect in a short space of time.

Emerging infectious diseases are closely monitored by public health agencies and international partners such as the World Health Organisation. Information will be provided on specific diseases as and when they emerge.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government or Local Authority advise of a pandemic or other danger to health is declared.

**Response:** If a further outbreak/spike of COVID-19 or other pandemic occurs, follow Bollington Town Council's COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan and in accordance with the WHO and government guidelines. Leverage the local volunteer network to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for.

**Mitigate risks by:** Ensuring the community is well-informed about the response and recovery plan.

### Animal diseases

Animal diseases threaten the UK for two main reasons: firstly, because of the potential for some diseases to spread from animals to humans and cause illness or fatalities; and secondly, because they affect the animals on which we rely for food, trade, or to maintain the ecosystem. As Bollington is a rural area with numerous livestock farms in the area the risk of animal diseases affecting community life is medium-high. Diseases which spread from animals to humans are called 'zoonotic diseases' e.g. avian influenza spread by migratory birds, movements of live poultry, poultry meat or contaminated vehicles / materials. Encephalitis is a disease carried by ticks, prevalent in areas (including Bollington) where there are sheep or wild deer.

Animal diseases which cannot spread to humans are termed 'non-zoonotic'. These affect animals (particularly livestock) that agriculture or ecosystems rely on. Examples include: foot and mouth spread by direct and indirect contact and can be wind-borne; swine fever spread via movement of pigs or contaminated products. Consequences of animal disease

may include: human fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; economic damage, particularly to the livestock industry and via lost trade; and disruption to tourism and rural communities. There was a devastating foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 which cost the UK around £8 billion; however, greatly improved response arrangements ensured that a subsequent 2007 outbreak caused much less damage (£15 million).

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government or local authority declaration; local veterinary advice.

**Response:** The early reporting of any suspicion of animal disease is vital. If a notifiable disease is identified it should immediately be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency - APHA (England) - Tel: 03000 200 301. For zoonotic diseases (those that can spread to humans), please refer to the Human Diseases section.

**Mitigate risks by:** Ensuring that the local community can access advice and information about how to report and respond to animal diseases. Liaise with local veterinary surgeries. Leverage local knowledge and expertise from the farming community.

**Bollington Vets:** <https://www.bollingtonvets.co.uk/>

In an emergency please call the practice on the normal telephone numbers (01625 572999 or 01625 669666) and listen to the answer phone message for instructions.

### 3. Major accidents

#### Widespread electricity, gas or other systems failure

Instances of electricity failure (also referred to as power loss or blackout) can be caused by a number of things, such as severe weather (e.g. very strong winds, lightning and flooding) which damage the distribution network. The National Grid has a recovery process called 'Black Start' to recover the network from a total or partial shutdown. Based on current plans, Black Start recovery could take up to five days with potential for some additional disruption beyond this timescale in the event of significant network damage. Consequences of a national loss of power may include: fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; disruption or loss of essential services, particularly transport, food, water, fuel, gas, finance, communications (all types), and education; disruption to business (via lost working hours); and if blackouts are prolonged, also potential disruption to health care, emergency services and emerging public disorder.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government or Local Authority declaration of an incident.

**Response:** If there is a Power Cut call 105. Follow government guidance. Leverage the local volunteer network to ensure that the most vulnerable are cared for. See the General Emergency Response Plan.

## Transport accidents

Transport accidents occur on a daily basis, mainly on roads, and involving private vehicles. Well-practised plans exist to deal with these locally. This section focuses on rare but severe accidents that would require some form of national response. Bollington lies below a main flight path to Manchester and, while the risk is small, carries the risk of a plane crash in the vicinity. Consequences may include: fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; disruption to essential services, particularly transport; disruption to business and tourism; damage to property and infrastructure; possible environmental contamination (such as with fuels / cargoes); and possible evacuation and shelter of local residents or employees.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government, Local Authority or Emergency Services advise of incident.

**Response:** Activate the General Emergency Response Plan.

## Industrial and urban accidents including dam breaches

Industrial and urban accidents can take a wide variety of forms and their impacts vary considerably in both scale and nature. This is a broad category of risk and includes: fires and explosions (affecting, e.g. residential buildings, power plants, refineries or oil rigs); chemical and biological contamination (such as oil spills or food contamination); radiological contamination (from nuclear accidents in the UK or abroad); and dam breach (leading to a sudden emptying of reservoirs and subsequent flooding. Nearby Whaley Bridge came close to a dam breach in August 2020, leading to large-scale evacuation of the town for a number of days until the damage could be mitigated. The Lamaload and Rainow Reservoirs are approximately 4 miles upstream from Bollington. Bollington's location on the Macclesfield Canal connects it to a range of man-made and natural water systems.

Consequences may include: fatalities and physical / psychological casualties; disruption to essential services, particularly energy and transport; damage to property and infrastructure; economic damage; environmental contamination (such as with oil or radiation); and evacuation and shelter of affected individuals.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government, Local Authority or Emergency Services advise of incident.

**Response:** Consult public information e.g. the Environment Agency's 'What's in your backyard?' <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/cy/default.aspx?> enables users to view whether an address in England and Wales is in an indicated flood zone for a reservoir and also provides a similar service for landfills and historic mine waste facilities. Review historical and existing major industrial sites are in the area.

In the case of a local industrial accident, close doors and windows to protect yourself from potential fumes or contaminants and be prepared to evacuate as outlined in the General Emergency Response Plan.

#### 4. Malicious attacks

##### Terrorist attacks

Terrorism poses a threat at the national level. Attacks may occur in crowded places e.g. when gatherings/larger scale events take place; on transport systems; on infrastructure e.g. water supplies or transport routes.

**Emergency Response Activation Trigger:** Government, Local Authority or Emergency Services advise of incident.

**Response:** Reduce vulnerability by moving people away from attack areas. Advise people to stay in a secure place, following the advice of Emergency Services and Government directives.

**Awareness-raising** - the Government provides a range of advice through Counter Terrorism Security Advisers, training and guidance documents to help businesses and other organisations understand the terrorist threat, improve protective security and preparedness, spot signs of suspicious activity and take other appropriate actions.

**Physical protective security** - this includes barriers to prevent vehicles being used as a weapon, or to keep vehicle bombs further from buildings to mitigate the effects of the blast.

##### **Response**

In the event of a malicious/terrorist attack contact Cheshire Constabulary on 999. The Force Incident Manager will review the incident and conduct a risk assessment which will result in the most appropriate resource being deployed.

##### Cyber, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks

In the case of such threats follow government guidance and instate the General Emergency Response plan.

