

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can occur at different seasons in various extremes with different and common consequences. Incidents may be;

IMMEDIATE
GRADUAL
and
REPEATED

The potential for disruption to every day life is considerable and may last for several days or even weeks.

Our greatest challenge will be if more than one type of severe weather occurs simultaneously with another. (e.g. High winds and flooding; High winds and heavy snow = snow drifts.)

Those people in need of greatest help will be the ELDERLY, INFIRM, the SICK, DISABLED, the VERY YOUNG and those dependent on regular MEDICAL SUPPORT. (e.g. expectant mothers, patients on dialysis, epileptics, pharmacy and oxygen supplies, etc.)

Your greatest assets will be calm behaviour and applied common sense. Discourage untrained personnel from doing dangerous tasks. Injured helpers only add to a problem. Chain saws and tree felling are DANGEROUS activities. Snow and floods can obscure serious hazards.

Dangers

- DO NOT TOUCH DAMAGED POWER LINES.
- DO NOT RE-ENTER DAMAGED BUILDINGS
- BEWARE of manhole covers and drain grids on pavements and roads being pushed up by water pressure. These can be a trip hazard and/or expose a deep hole. Use a stick to probe the ground as you walk.
- DO NOT of try to cross fast moving flood water. It make look easy, but one slip and you could be carried away.

Provide

- Shelter, food & water for the homeless in Village Halls or in homes.
- Needs of vulnerable people.
- Clear Roads – Tools and equipment may be required. Remember – only use tools if you are sure you know how to use them safely.
- Warning signs for dangerous features – especially fallen power lines, floods and slippery surfaces. (e.g. spilt diesel oil after a road accident.)
- Repairs to non hazardous damage where possible. Work in pairs. Do not use ladders when its windy or slippery.