



Callander Resilience Group

Helping our community to prepare for and respond to significant emergencies

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Why do we have a local Resilience Group?

The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) was introduced by the Scottish Government in order to reduce the risk and impact of major civil emergencies. Whilst the statutory agencies such as the police, fire and ambulance services together with the local councils, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and others are primarily responsible for planning for and responding to such emergencies, the Scottish Government are encouraging local communities to work with the authorities in this work.

Within the Stirling Council area, about 50% of local communities now have local Resilience Groups in place. Callander now has its own group and an outline emergency response plan.



We also have a Facebook page, a Twitter page and a section within the InCallander website.

Who are we?

We are a small, but rapidly growing group of local residents and business owners who meet every couple of months. We are now keen to let the townsfolk know that we exist and what we are trying to achieve.

What is the CRG trying to achieve?

Firstly, identifying potentially significant risks to Callander and its surrounding area from hazards such as fire, flood, extreme weather, area-wide loss of power etc and working with the authorities to prevent or mitigate those risks.

Secondly, should a significant emergency take place, to support the emergency services and other voluntary responders such as the Killin Mountain Rescue Team, Trossachs Search & Rescue etc by providing local knowledge, skills and equipment to respond as efficiently and effectively as possible. We also hope to keep you educated through our website and in the event of an emergency, warned and informed through our Facebook and Twitter pages.



www.incallander.co.uk/resilience



www.facebook.com/callanderresilience



www.twitter.com/callresilience

How do we plan to do this?

In terms of preventative work and preparatory work, we have a small but rapidly growing Committee of local volunteers who are working hard to raise awareness of risks, how they might be prevented and if they do happen, how you can minimise the impact. For example, we will be working with the local Fire & Rescue Service to provide locals with fire prevention advice.



Should a significant emergency take place, we would like to get as many people and businesses as possible to agree to come out and help in any way that they can. For example, in the event of homes being flooded, helping those who can't help themselves to lift furniture upstairs, place sandbags and clean up after the event. In the recent fire at Victoria Court, the fantastic efforts of people who rallied to help those affected showed how our community can be activated. The local woman who led the effort said that she wishes she had known more about how to help before-hand. If we develop that knowledge and some emergency procedures then we can help effectively in any major future situation.



Who do we need to help us?

We are seeking a commitment from local residents and businesses who are prepared to be called in a major emergency to help out in any way that they can. Volunteers will be covered by Stirling Council's Insurance, but be assured we will not ask anyone to do anything which puts them at undue risk.

We will create a call-out list of

- people with skills and equipment such as 4 x 4 vehicles, trailers, chain saws etc.
- people who are prepared to help with keeping locals informed of what is going on by updating our Facebook and Twitter pages.
- people who can co-ordinate requests for help.
- people who can provide emergency, short-term accommodation, provide a hot meal, tea and coffee.

It would also be very helpful if local doctors, nurses, first-aiders, electricians, plumbers, builders etc were willing to put their names down with us so that we can call on them if needed.

In most cases that's all the commitment we are looking for, to give us your name and contact details. We already have the Callander Youth Project, McLaren Community Leisure Centre and the Old Bank on board and we are very grateful to them for their support. If you think you can help in any way and are willing to support us then please e-mail your contact details to crg-helpers@incallander.co.uk

We will only be getting involved in major emergencies and will be careful to ensure that we are helping the emergency services and not getting in their way. The local police, fire and ambulance services are fully supportive of what we are doing as are Stirling Council, the Scottish Flood Forum and others.