

# POINT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

**Sgìre an Rubha**



**Point Community Council**



## EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

Community councils have no statutory duty to plan for, or respond to, emergencies in their locality. However, as recommended by the Scottish Government, it is good practice for communities to identify hazards and make simple plans for how they may react and where appropriate assist the emergency services and other responder agencies should a major incident occur.

A major incident is defined as **an event or situation with a range of serious consequences which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agencies.**

This plan is intended to enable the district of Point in the Isle of Lewis to respond quickly and appropriately to emergency situations, from whatever cause. Care has been taken to consider the possible risks and their likely impact on the community or any section thereof.

**It is not intended that this plan will usurp the roles of the emergency services or other statutory responders.**

Rather, it is meant to enable the district of Point to facilitate the work of the emergency services and additionally provide a self-help capability within the district. **The community responders must be sensitive to the needs of religious and ethnic minorities who may be involved as well as the needs of persons who are elderly or infirm.**

Research has been undertaken to identify the resources available in the district and what additional material assets may be required to enable an effective response and the individuals who have volunteered to assist the community to respond to an emergency, together with the scope of their involvement.

**The roles of volunteers will be limited to what can be done safely. Individuals must not put themselves or others at risk as a result of the implementation of the arrangements in this plan.**

The possibility always exists that events may unfold in a different way to that envisaged during the preparation of the plan; for this reason, it is vitally important that the provisional arrangements are modified and applied in the

light of actual effects and circumstances. Flexibility in execution is essential if an effective response is to be achieved.

It can reasonably be expected that, if circumstances permit, activating this plan will be better than doing nothing.

## **1. PURPOSE**

The aim of the Point Community Council (PCC) Emergency Plan is to increase resilience within our local community before, during and after emergencies and, where necessary and appropriate, to link into the emergency response structures already established by the Emergency Services and Western Isles Council (CNES). This Plan documents how PCC would respond in an emergency to support residents and/or while awaiting the assistance of statutory authorities/emergency services, or in support of them.

**It is not the role of the community to take on the responsibilities of these agencies e.g. to save life, to take any risks to themselves or to cope for long hours without agencies' help and support.**

## **2. EMERGENCIES AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

Definition of an emergency: An emergency / major incident is any event or circumstance (happening with or without warning) that causes or threatens death or injury, disruption to the community, or damage to property or to the environment on such a scale that the effect cannot be dealt with by the emergency services, local authorities and other organisations as part of their normal day-to day activities. The risks considered in this plan can be described as Environmental, Infrastructure and Social.

## **3. COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

In the event of an emergency occurring and any additional community response in Point being requested by Western Isles Council (CNES) or any of the emergency services further assistance can be sought by way of contacting the Community Council as detailed below following which a number of roles will require to be resourced from the Community Council or local volunteers

Point Community Council	Telephone	Email

## **RISKS**

**Whilst not exhaustive, Causes, Effects, Preparation and Response details are provided for the following identified risks. Where any danger / Risk is identified not falling within one of these categories report this and seek assistance.**

### **STORM**

#### **BRAIGHE OVERTOPPING**

#### **BRAIGHE BREACH**

#### **POWER FAILURE**

#### **TELEPHONE FAILURE**

#### **FLOODING**

#### **VEHICLE ACCIDENT**

#### **AIRCRAFT CRASH**

#### **MARINE OIL SPILL**

#### **SHIP GROUNDING**

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

#### **EXTREME COLD**

#### **EXTREME HEAT**

## EMERGENCIES & RISKS

### CAUSES, EFFECTS, PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

Incident	Potential Effects	Preparation & Response
Storm	<p>High winds</p> <p>Lightning.</p> <p>Heavy rain.</p> <p>Personal injury.</p> <p>Structural damage.</p> <p>Loss of electricity.</p> <p>Loss of telecommunications.</p> <p>Roads, Causeways &amp; vehicles damaged.</p>	<p>Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan</p> <p><b>Residents should: -</b></p> <p>Before a Storm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure loose objects such as bins, ladders, garden furniture, or anything else that could be blown into windows or cause danger:</li> <li>Check the <u>weather forecast</u>, and keep up-to-date with the <u>latest weather warnings</u>.</li> <li>Check on vulnerable neighbours or relatives and help them prepare.</li> <li>Park vehicles in a garage, if available.</li> <li>If chimney stacks are tall and in poor condition, move beds away from areas directly below them.</li> </ul> <p>During a Storm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beware of flying slates and roof tiles.</li> <li>Keep up-to-date with the <u>latest weather warnings</u>,</li> </ul>

Storm - continued.		<p>flood advice and <u>road conditions</u> and follow any travel advice from Police Scotland;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take care driving on exposed routes such as bridges, coastal routes or high open roads. Delay your journey or find alternative routes if necessary.</li><li>• Don't go outside to repair damage while the storm is in progress;</li><li>• If you lose power, call 105 – it's free of charge and will put you through to your local network operator who can help and advise you;</li><li>• If possible, enter and leave your house through doors on the sheltered side of the building, closing them behind you.</li></ul> <p>After a Storm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be careful not to touch any electrical/telephone cables that have been blown down or are still hanging. Call 105 to report damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put someone in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, phone the emergency services.</li><li>• Make sure that vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe and help them make</li></ul>
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		arrangements for any repairs.
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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Temporary closure of the Braighe due to waves overtopping.	Limited disruption to public and private transport.  Fire appliances and ambulances unable to pass while the closure is in effect. This could result in premises being destroyed by fire and a delay in appropriate treatment for persons suffering a medical emergency	Identify the potential of an emergency access route on the North side of the Braighe of appropriate specification to permit use by emergency services vehicles as necessary.

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Breaching of the Braighe sea wall and roadway with severing of all underground cables and pipelines.	Significant and prolonged disruption to public and private transport.  Fire appliances and ambulances unable to pass while the closure is in effect. This could result in premises being	Identify the potential of an emergency access route on the North side of the Braighe of appropriate specification to permit use by emergency services vehicles as necessary.  Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan. Consider the acquisition of a telephone instrument that plugs into a line socket in the home. Such phones draw their power from the local

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<p>Breaching of the Braighe sea wall and roadway with severing of all underground cables and pipelines - cont</p>	<p>destroyed by fire and a delay in appropriate treatment. for persons suffering a medical emergency</p> <p>Loss of electricity. See failure of electricity network on page 6</p> <p>Loss of telephone service out with Point. See failure of PSTN on page 7</p> <p>Loss/contamination of mains water.</p> <p>Residents unable to replenish food supplies.</p>	<p>telephone exchange and the Garrabost Exchange which serves Point is self-sufficient for a limited period.</p> <p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assist in delivering support to those requiring it.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p> <p>Endeavour to ensure that residents identified as most at risk are checked on.</p>
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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Failure of the whole or part of Point's electricity network.	<p>Residents' dependent on electricity for heating and cooking may need support. Cold is a threat to vulnerable people.</p> <p>A prolonged power outage may lead to the failure of communications networks.</p> <p>Full or partial closure of Buth an Rubha and its ATM.</p> <p>Cause spoilage of food and refrigerated medicines.</p> <p>Prevent use of medical devices such as stairlifts, C-Pap machines for obstructive sleep apnoea and oxygen pumps.</p> <p>Cause damage to electronic devices from an electrical surge when power is restored.</p>	<p>Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan. Customers with a particular reliance on electricity, Scottish &amp; Southern Energy Networks [SSEN] should register with its free Priority Services Register [PSR], which offers extra care and support when there is a power cut. Register by calling <b>0800 294 3259</b>.</p> <p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p> <p>Endeavour to ensure that residents identified as most at risk are checked on.</p>

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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
<p>Failure of Public Switched Telephone Network [PSTN] &amp; internet services.</p>	<p>Phones and/or broadband lost. Good communications are essential for effective crisis management.</p> <p>Power backup at Mobile phone transmission sites is limited so mobile phones could not be used for long.</p> <p>Local calls would still be possible.</p>	<p>Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan. Consider the acquisition of a telephone instrument that plugs into a line socket in the home. Such phones draw their power from the local telephone exchange and the Garrabost Exchange which serves Point is self-sufficient for a limited period.</p> <p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p> <p>Endeavour to support the emergency services by ensuring that residents identified as most at risk are checked on.</p> <p>Identify any immediate and longer-term communications needs and residents most at risk.</p> <p>Investigate the nearest places unaffected by the interruption.</p>

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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
<p>Flooding of low-lying areas of roadway.</p>	<p>Temporary disruption to public and private transport.</p>	<p>While Western Isles Council (CNES) has a statutory responsibility also encourage all resident and grazing committees monitor and keep drainage ditches clear.</p> <p>Western Isles Council (CNES) will respond to road closures in the event of flooding, co-ordinate reception centres for people evacuated from their homes and arrange temporary accommodation if appropriate.</p> <p>Western Isles Council (CNES) will coordinate with the police, fire and rescue services in response to severe flooding.</p> <p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p>

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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Vehicle accident on the A866 in Point.	<p>Road closed for a prolonged period.</p> <p>Multiple casualties</p> <p>Spills or ignition of hazardous material, petrol, oil, brake fluid etc and possible exposure to contaminants.</p> <p>Dangers to persons attempting assistance including jagged metal, broken glass, hazardous fluids. Extreme hazards associated with Electric, LPG &amp; Hydrogen propelled vehicles.</p>	<p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p>

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Aircraft crash in Point.	<p>Death or injury to persons impacted by the crash.</p> <p>Danger of death or injury to persons on the ground who may attempt rescue. A military aircraft should not be approached from the front or rear because of the danger posed by ordnance.</p>	<p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre</p>

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Aircraft crash in Point - cont	Extreme hazards that may be associated with aircraft construction materials, cargo carried or any fire which may necessitate an extended exclusion zone due to potential contamination.	Access available resources as necessary.
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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Marine oil spill impacting shoreline.	<p>Short-term health symptoms after exposure to an oil spill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory loss</li> <li>• Dizziness and irritability</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Coughing and lung problems</li> <li>• Fatigue</li> <li>• Skin injuries</li> <li>• Rashes</li> <li>• Blisters</li> <li>• Eye sores</li> </ul> <p>Since most oils float, the creatures most affected by oil are animals like sea otters and <u>seabirds</u> that are found on the sea surface or on shorelines if the oil comes ashore. If oil remains on a beach other creatures, may suffer.</p>	<p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>This may include assistance with evacuation of people who live in close proximity to the pollution.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p>

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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Ship grounding on Point.	<p>Human casualties.</p> <p>Hull breaches.</p> <p>Cargo spills.</p> <p>Total loss of the vessel.</p>	<p>Once alerted to the circumstances, and if requested, the Point Community Response Group will in collaboration with statutory responders assess the situation and determine local priorities, and where possible assist in delivering support.</p> <p>The group will, if necessary, initiate the Point Resilience Plan and activate the Emergency Response Centre.</p> <p>Access available resources as necessary.</p>

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Infectious disease	<p>Typical symptoms include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High temperature or shivering.</li> <li>• New, continuous cough.</li> <li>• Shortness of breath.</li> <li>• Feeling tired or exhausted.</li> <li>• Aching body.</li> <li>• Headache.</li> <li>• Sore throat.</li> <li>• Blocked or runny nose.</li> <li>• Loss of appetite.</li> <li>• Diarrhoea.</li> <li>• Feeling sick or being sick.</li> </ul>	<p>Residents to be encouraged to: -</p> <p>Immunise against infectious diseases.</p> <p>Ensure they have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment [PPE].</p> <p>Wash and dry hands regularly and well.</p> <p>Stay at home if feeling sick.</p> <p>Cover coughs and sneezes.</p> <p>Clean surfaces regularly.</p> <p>Ventilate the home.</p> <p>Prepare food safely.</p>

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<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Extreme cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Snow and Ice.</li> <li>● Wind chill.</li> <li>● Frozen water pipes.</li> <li>● Burst pipes following thaw.</li> <li>● Frozen heating oil pipes (heating oil will start to 'gel' at minus 9 degrees Celsius).</li> <li>● Frozen Butane cylinders. Propane has a lower boiling point than Butane making it more suitable for outdoor storage outdoors.</li> <li>● No potable water</li> <li>● Hypothermia.</li> <li>● Frostbite.</li> <li>● Extra strain on heart.</li> </ul>	Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan

<b>Incident</b>	<b>Potential Effects</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Response</b>
Extreme heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wildfires.</li> <li>● Damage to buildings.</li> <li>● Paved surfaces, such as roads and runways, are typically made of asphalt or concrete, materials that can be affected, in some</li> </ul>	Encourage all households to prepare a Household Emergency Plan.

	<p>cases dramatically and quickly, by heat.</p> <p><b>Risk to humans: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Heat stroke.</li><li>● Heat exhaustion.</li><li>● Heat cramps.</li><li>● Heat rash.</li><li>● Sunburn.</li><li>● Dehydration.</li></ul> <p><b>Risk to pets: -</b></p> <p>Pets are at risk of heatstroke once the outside temperature hits at least <b>80 degrees</b> and a humidity of at least <b>90 percent</b>.</p> <p><b>Risk to farm animals: -</b></p> <p>Farm animals are also susceptible to heat stress and the provision of a plentiful supply of clean, cool water and shade is essential.</p>	
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#### 4. ACTIVATION OF THE PLAN

This plan can be activated when an emergency has occurred or if warnings are received prior to an anticipated event. It can also be activated when emergency services need support or are not able to attend immediately e.g., in severe weather. When requested PCC will assess the situation and liaise with the Emergency Services and Western Isles Council (CNES). PCC may then put all or part of the Plan into effect as appropriate. During an emergency, volunteers will keep a record of actions taken. These will be recorded by the PCC Co-ordinators so that they can be evaluated, and the plan altered if necessary. Information can be entered at the time, or directly after the emergency.

#### 5. CONTROL/REFUGE POINT

In the event of any declared emergency and contact being made with Point Community Council the Point Emergency Response Team will coordinate and assist in facilitating the availability of community resources.

The **Designated Emergency Response Centre** for the Point Emergency Plan is Aros An Rubha, Knock, Point, HS2 0BW

National Grid Reference (NGR) – NB492319.

What 3 Words Reference – dignitary.hats.slime.

Located at junction of A866 and Knock Road.

It is envisaged that, if possible, the Point Emergency Response Team will manage the community response from the Conference Room at Aros an Rubha, failing which, the Logistics Manager will identify suitable premises from which to conduct the response.

## 6. REST/EMERGENCY FEEDING CENTRE(s)

It may also be necessary to set up temporary places of safety within the community e.g. for visitors or for people evacuated from their homes.

The designated place of safety specific to any emergency would be advised but the following have been identified:

- **Point & Sandwich Trust Building / Aros An Rubha,**  
Knock, Point, HS2 0BW  
National Grid Reference (NGR) – NB492319.  
What 3 Words Reference – dignitary.hats.slime.  
Located at junction of A866 and Knock Road.
- **Tiumpanhead Community Centre –**  
AIRD, Point, HS2 0EX  
National Grid Reference (NGR) – NB552356  
What 3 Words Reference – elbow.waddled.hypocrite  
Located beside Point Showground
- **Sgoil an Rubha,**  
New Garrabost, Point, HS2 0PX  
Telephone 01851870641  
National Grid Reference (NGR) – NB516328.  
What 3 Words Reference – depended.outruns.awesome  
Located on the road to Bayble.
- **Ionad Stoodie –**  
Point Football Pitch, KNOCK, Point, HS2 0BW  
National Grid Reference (NGR) - NB500322  
What 3 Words Reference – resists. muscular.shortcuts  
Located between Seaview, Knock and Point football pitch.

Responsibility for activating any REST/EMERGENCY FEEDING CENTRE will be the responsibility of the Point Emergency Response Team following consultation with the emergency services, CNES and the relevant keyholder(s)

## **7. COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Volunteers in each village have indicated what assistance and resources they may be able to offer in the event of an emergency. These volunteers can be contacted as per the details contained within appendix “B” of the copy of this document held by the coordinators.

Details of the identified physical resources (Tools, Equipment & Vehicles) that may be made available in each village in the event of any emergency are contained within copies of the Point Emergency Plan available to the coordinators.

Dependent on the type of emergency and its longevity, supplies of food and water may be difficult to obtain. Whilst the emergency services, local authorities and other organisations will seek to prioritise the supply of such items the local community may be able to assist. The Community Council together with its volunteers will if required assist the organisations to source and deliver same.

Where weather related emergencies occur which may restrict the ability of the emergency services, local authorities, and other organisations to reach Point or where demand exceeds their ability to respond, the Community Council will if requested assist the assistance of the local community in utilising suitable transport / vehicles. All vehicles must be licensed and insured.

Point Community Council will not be seeking to employ anyone in assisting should any element of this plan require activation and as such Health & Safety Legislation will not apply however all activities must be undertaken having due cognisance to appropriate Health and Safety and commensurate with

guidance and instructions issued by the emergency services, local authorities and appropriate equipment used in a safe manner. PCC has a policy of third-party liability insurance.

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND CONTACTS**

Copies of the Point Community Council 'Home Emergency Plan' will be available to every household in Point containing important information, contact numbers and general advice in the event of being prepared for an emergency.

Contact details for statutory authorities and the emergency services are to be found in Point Emergency Plan available to the coordinators.

During many emergencies normal means of communications will be maintained specifically the use of mobile phones for voice and data communication.

Where there is a loss of the mobile phone and BT landline network Point Community Council does currently have an alternative means of communication other than by direct word of mouth.

Where appropriate limited alternative means of communication may be provided by statutory authorities or the emergency services, but this would only be in exceptional cases.

## **8. ACTIVATING THE EMERGENCY PLAN**

The Point Community Emergency Plan is NOT a substitute for calling 999 in the event of an emergency.

This plan is not designed to be self-activating; it will activate ONLY upon a request from statutory authorities, or the emergency services and any actions will likewise always be coordinated with their response.

The activation of the plan will be recorded by the coordinator receiving the request. All subsequent decisions will be recorded.

In the event of the plan requiring to be activated a simple management structure has been created and nominated individuals will fulfil these roles

## **9. DISTRIBUTION**

This plan is unrestricted in its availability and distribution.

A copy of this plan will be available online.

Any appendices to plans containing personal contact details including telephone numbers will only be available to the PCC Co-ordinators and other relevant persons.

## **10. PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE**

To keep this plan up to date, information and contact details will be revised as needed, and the plan reviewed on a regular basis and in any case annually.