**APPENDIX 8: HELPING TO PREVENT EMERGENCIES AND BEING READY TO COPE WITH THEM IF THEY OCCUR**

Smarden’s Emergency Plan can be seen at <http://www.smardenparishcouncil.org.uk/community/smarden-parish-council-13580/emergency-plan>

While we do not expect major emergencies to occur, there are actions we can all take to help to prevent them. We are also aware that a family is currently living in temporary accommodation following a major house fire just prior to Christmas. It was heartening to see the village response; it gives us confidence that if something dreadful happens we are all there to offer help. We hope the suggestions below are helpful.

Most importantly ensure you can access information and updates about the situation via the internet including Emergency Services websites, Smarden Community Facebook page and Nextdoor Smarden e-mail messaging service; local radio (ensure you have a battery-operated radio in case of power cut) etc.

**FLOODING**

* Register to receive flood warnings at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>
* Report river blockages to the Environment Agency at <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>
* Report a flood or cause of flooding eg burst water main at <https://www.gov.uk/report-flood-cause>

**FIRE**

* check your smoke alarm is working every week
* invite Kent Fire and Rescue to conduct a free assessment of your home or check advice at <http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/your-safety/home-safety/>

**HIGH WINDS**

* secure or store loose objects that could smash into windows
* close and fasten doors and windows securely
* park vehicles in a garage or well away from trees, buildings, walls and fences.

**EXTREME WEATHER**

* stock up on essentials eg in your freezer and/or canned food
* check out the best ways to keep warm at <https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx>
* stay in touch with the latest forecast and cold weather alerts via local radio or internet includingRadio Kent and https://m.bbc.co.uk/weather/warnings
* find out how best to cope with extreme heat at https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Summerhealth/Pages/Heatwave.aspx

**POWER CUT**

* retain a standard landline phone – cordless phones won’t work in a power cut
* sign up to the UKPN Priority Services Register <http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/internet/en/power-cuts/priority-services-during-a-power-cut/priority-service-register-application-form/>
* do not to open fridges any longer than necessary
* ensure your home is well insulated. It will stay warm for 12 hours or more in a power cut.
* invest in an alternative source of heating for such occasions
* be careful if using candles (see fire above!)

**WATER SUPPLY CUT**

* ensure you have an emergency water supply. Everyone’s needs differ, but the Food Standards Agency advises that the average adult should take in 1.5 to 2litres of water in a typical day (6-8 250ml glasses.)

**CRIME**

* sign up for e-mail alerts from your Neighbourhood Watch Warden. See <http://www.smardenparishcouncil.org.uk/community/smarden-parish-council-13580/neighbourhood-watch>

**PANDEMIC**

* try to ensure you have sufficient medication
* follow NHS advise via the internet or local radio

**TRAFFIC ACCIDENT**

* be aware of roads and junctions where accidents in particular during adverse weather. Our roads are not always gritted.
* Cut back hedges and overgrowing trees at junctions or where they affect a drver’s field of vison
* undertake the Advanced Motoring course (may result in lower insurance premiums too)

**TERRORISM**

* be aware and report suspicious packages or behaviours to the police via 999
* be aware of the ‘Run, Hide and Tell’ anti-terrorism guidance including video at <http://www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx>