



MAJOR EMERGENCY PLAN Version 10.0

Part 8.3 – Chapter 2 Severe Weather

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL
ARGYLE ROAD, SEVENOAKS, KENT. TN13 1HG

Emergency Planning Officer - Jeff Seear
Phone 01732 227000 Ext. 7303
DDI 01732 227303
Fax 01732 227176 or 0870 1914826
e-mail jeff.seear@sevenoaks.gov.uk
emergency.planning@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Web www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/emergencyplanning

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See also Part 8.3 – Chapter 1 - Local Multi Agency Flood Plan

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1.1 - GENERAL

The Met Office issues warnings for the following types of severe weather

- Severe Gales/Storms
- Heavy Snow/Very Heavy Snow/Blizzard/Severe Blizzard
- Heavy Rain
- Fog
- Widespread Icy Roads
- Heatwave

Severe weather events (except heatwave) have some common effects:

- In an emergency, it will effect the time taken for responders to attend, either to the scene of the emergency, the District Emergency Centre or other required location (See Part 9)
- The business continuity issue for staff not being able to get to their normal workplace (See Part 9)
- Shortages of supplies because of delivery difficulties (See Part 9)

Note

Severe Weather Warnings are shown on the Met Office's website at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/> where there is a link on the home page.

For the regional forecast see

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/se/se_forecast_weather.html

For the local forecast for the Sevenoaks area, see

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/se/biggin_hill_forecast_weather.html

or

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/se/tunbridge_wells_forecast_weather.html

1.2 - SEVERE GALES/STORMS

Effects of severe gales and storms can be:

- Extensive road clearance of fallen trees, tree debris and other debris with its accompanying waste management issues. (Railway lines can also be blocked preventing staff from attending their workplace)
- Damage to drainage systems (pipework, manholes etc) from the pulling up of the roots of falling trees
- Blocking of watercourses by fallen trees, tree debris and other debris with additional flooding risk (See Part 8.3 – Chapter 1)
- Widespread structural damage which would place a significant workload on Building Control Officers (See Part 6.3)
- Potential for damage to Council premises that would be used for the District Emergency Centre or its nominated alternative, and for other response activity (See Part 9)
- Overhead phone cables down causing communication difficulties (See Part 5.7 and Part 9)
- Overhead electricity cables down causing power outages to affected areas (See Part 9)

1.3 - HEAVY SNOW - VERY HEAVY SNOW – BLIZZARD - SEVERE BLIZZARD

- Snow is largely a highways issue regarding road salting and highway snow clearance (See Part 7.3)
- There is also a facilities management issue for maintaining the environment of Council buildings, particularly that being used as the District Emergency Centre, in cold conditions (See Part 9)

Other emergency planning effects could be:

- Transportation accidents as a result of snow (See Part 7.3)
- Structural damage due to overloading (See Part 6.3)
- Overhead phone cables down causing communication difficulties (See Part 5.7 and Part 9)
- Overhead electricity cables down causing power outages to affected areas (See Part 9)
- Flooding from melting snow (See Part 8.3 – Chapter 1)

1.4 - HEAVY RAIN

The main emergency planning effect of rain is flooding (see Part 8.3 – Chapter 1), with the problem of Direct Services staff workload covering the filling, distributing and placing of sandbags (in the past this service has continued throughout the working day and throughout the evening, with calls diminishing at about 01:00) and then catching up with their normal duties after the event.

The other emergency planning main effects would be:

- The establishment of Rest Centres to accommodate people displaced from their homes due to flood water (See Part 8.1)
- Contamination of land and property due to sewage overflowing from the sewerage system (See Part 6.1)
- Transportation accidents as a result of heavy rain and flooding (See Part 7.3)

1.5 – FOG

The main effect of fog would be:

- Transportation accidents as a result of fog (See Part 7.3)

1.6 - WIDESPREAD ICY ROADS

There may be a facilities management issue for maintaining the environment of Council buildings, particularly that being used as the District Emergency Centre, in cold conditions

The main emergency planning effects of icy road conditions would be:

- Transportation accidents as a result of ice (See Part 7.3)
- Overhead phone cables down due to icing causing communication difficulties (See Part 5.7 and Part 9)
- Overhead electricity cables down due to icing causing power outages to affected areas (See Part 9).

1.7 – HEATWAVE

See *Heatwave Plan for England* – Department of Health – 2010

- Heatwave conditions are largely an issue for Social Care and the NHS regarding vulnerable people and risks to their health.
- The business continuity issue for staff working in heatwave conditions (See Part 9)
- The welfare of staff undertaking their normal duties in heatwave conditions (See Sections 1.3 and 1.4 of the Major Emergency Plan)

However the emergency planning effects of heatwave would be:

- A reduction in working time, particularly out of doors (Incident Liaison Officers, etc) in extreme temperatures (See Sections 1.3 and 1.4 of the Major Emergency Plan and Part 5.8)
- The welfare of such responders, particularly food and drink (See Sections 1.3 and 1.4 of the Major Emergency Plan and Part 5.8)