



Voluntary and community sector

Level 0: Year round planning

- engage with local statutory partners to agree how the community and voluntary sector can contribute to the local community resilience arrangements
- develop a community emergency plan to:
 - identify and support vulnerable neighbours in the winter
 - assess the impact severe weather might have on the provision and use of usual community venues
 - ensure that pavements and public walkways are cleared of snow and ice in the local community
 - agree support, resources and training to maximise effective use of volunteers
 - support recruitment of volunteers
 - agree mechanisms for distributing food, fuel, emergency heating, health, social care and other provision to vulnerable people
 - review emergency housing and hostel provision
 - agree arrangements with other community groups to maximise contact with vulnerable people
 - identify available services for vulnerable people and agree signposting arrangements with providers

Level 1: Winter preparedness and action programme – 1 November to 31 March

- test the community emergency plan to ensure that roles and responsibilities and actions are clear
- set up rotas of willing volunteers to keep the community safe during inclement weather and to check on vulnerable people and neighbours
- support the provision of appropriate advice about the health risks of cold weather/ cold housing especially with vulnerable people
- ensure that there is a business continuity plan for severe winter weather to ensure support can continue to be given to vulnerable people
- actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary

Cold Weather Plan for England 2014

Action cards for Cold Weather Alert Service

Level 2: Severe winter weather is forecast – Alert and readiness

Mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow are predicted within 48 hours, with 60% confidence

- activate the community emergency plan
- activate the business continuity plan
- continue to actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary
- stay tuned to the weather forecast

Level 3: Response to severe winter weather – Severe weather action

Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature of 2°C or less and/or widespread ice and heavy snow

- implement community emergency plan
- contact vulnerable people to ensure they are safe and well, and support them to seek help if necessary
- ensure volunteers are appropriately supported

Level 4: Major incident – Emergency response

Central government will declare a level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged cold weather affecting sectors other than health

- continue actions as per level 3 unless advised to the contrary
- implementation of national emergency response arrangements by central government
- follow key public health and weather alert messages as broadcast on the media

The Cold Weather Plan for England 2014 and associated documents can be accessed at:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/cold-weather-plan-for-england