

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES ON ST HELENA

“Are you prepared?”

This booklet tells you more about the main risks on St Helena, the arrangements currently in place, and how you can help yourself and your family before, during and after a major emergency.

St Helena Government and other agencies have formed the St Helena Resilience Forum. The forum is working hard to make sure that the Island is as prepared as it can be in the event of a major emergency and that you are ready too. By being informed and prepared, you can significantly reduce the risk to life and property.

The Resilience Forum is responsible for producing the Island Risk Register and assessing each risk. We then prepare both general plans as well as very specific plans to deal with all these eventualities. Whilst we cannot prevent major emergencies happening, we can all plan ahead to minimise the impact.

Want to Know More?

Contact the Emergency Planning Department:

Emergency Planning Manager:

ian.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh

Deputy Emergency Planning Manager:

Simon.wade@sainthelena.gov.sh

Telephone number: 25052

Alternatively visit the Emergency Planning section of the SHG Website:

<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/emergency-planning/>



Types of Emergencies

True catastrophes are rare on St Helena, but the Island has already experienced a number of major emergencies that have had a significant impact on those involved and on the community as a whole.

Examples of risks on St Helena include:

Medical emergencies that need transferring off-Island

Influenza type disease (pandemic)

Rock falls

Road Traffic Collisions

Drought



What Can You Do?

Families and households can and do cope with emergencies by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Once you know the type of emergencies that may occur on St Helena we would recommend that you start preparing by putting the following arrangements in place:

Meeting Point: Agree where you will meet up should you be separated from each other (for example children could be at school or parents at work) and unable to return home.

Evacuation: Should you need to evacuate your home or district we recommend that you make alternative arrangements to stay with a relative or friend in advance.

Stay in touch: Agree how you and your family members will stay in touch in the event of an emergency. Remember, your family members may not be at home when the emergency happens.

Hot tip—*Programme your mobile phones with relevant contact details*

Learn about your home: Where do you turn off the gas, electricity or water in your home?

Pets: If you have a pet, agree who will take care of it during an emergency to ensure it is safe and well looked after.

At Home - Prepare an Emergency Pack and Keep it Handy

Knowing where the basics are can help in terms of emergency. Keep the items listed below in your home so they can become your kit for use in all types of emergencies. Have a trial run, how many of these items can you find in your home?

- A windup or battery radio, with spare batteries
- A windup torch with spare batteries, candles and matches
- First Aid Kit and manual
- Medication, repeat prescriptions, tissues, toiletries and sanitary supplies
- Special food or equipment for infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities
- Spare warm clothing
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Books, playing cards or games
- Don't forget the safety of your family pets, prepare an emergency pack for them too.
- Extra car and house keys
- Copies of important family documents (birth certificates, passport). Store licence & insurance policies in a fire proof container



In the Event of an Evacuation

In some very unlikely situations, you may be asked to evacuate your home by the emergency services. If this happens, leave quickly and calmly and if possible follow these guidelines :

- Follow the instructions issued by the emergency services
- You may be asked to go to a temporary reception centre
- Take your emergency pack with you
- Call a relative or friend to let them know where you are going
- Collect family members or go to your agreed meeting place
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water, unplug appliances, lock doors and windows
- If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets and tune into local radio stations for warning and safety advice
- Consider your pets

At Work or School

Employers have a responsibility for the safety and security of their staff. All businesses should have arrangements in place to deal with the impact of a major incident or disaster. Make sure you understand what you need to do in an emergency at work.

All schools have plans to cope with emergencies such as fire and flood, and teachers and support staff do all they can to look after pupils in their charge.

If your children are at school you will naturally want to collect them as soon as possible in the event of a major emergency, however it may not be safe to do so. Please tune in to SAMS Radio 1 or Saint FM Community Radio stations or Local TV channels for frequent updates.

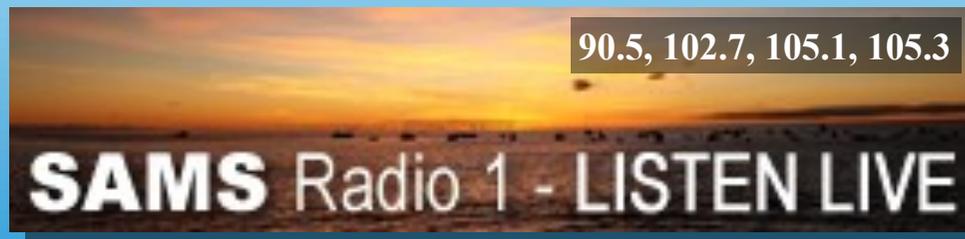
Go In, Stay In, Tune In

In a major emergency, if you are not involved in the incident, but are close by or believe you may be in danger, the best advice is to go inside a safe building, stay inside until you are advised to do otherwise, and tune in to local radio or local TV channels for information.

If you find yourself in the middle of an emergency, your common sense and instincts will usually tell you what to do.

However, it is important to:

- **Check for injuries - remember to help yourself before attempting to help others**
- **Make sure 999 has been called if people are injured or if there is threat to life**
- **Keep safe**
- **Follow the advice of the emergency services**
- **Remain calm and reassure others**



Important Contact Numbers

This page contains a list of important contact numbers you may need if an emergency occurs. We have left space for you to complete the correct emergency phone numbers for your household. Keep this list of contact numbers in a safe and accessible location.

Emergency phone numbers:

Emergency: 999 Medical Emergencies: 911
Connect Saint Helena Limited
(water and electricity) Emergencies: 22255
Sure South Atlantic: 22222 SHG's Press Office: 22368
South Atlantic Media Services: 22727 ST FM: 22488/22660

Emergency phone numbers for your household:



When making an emergency phone call please:

- State the address or location where help is needed
- State who is calling and the phone number you're calling from
- State what has happened
- DON'T HANG UP, stay on the line, unless you are told otherwise

