



Community Resilience Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring and Summer Edition of the Resilient Communities Newsletter.

In this issue we will look at :

- Individual Resilience
- Resilient Contacts
- RTS Switchover
- Wildfires and your home
- Winter debrief 2025-26

ISSUE 6
SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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Individual Resilience

In Issue 5 we asked the question What is resilience?

We provided an overview of our intention to support the improvement of individual resilience through information and education.

We have refreshed our section of SBC's website to include more information regarding personal resilience and the benefits it brings under the banner of "Be Prepared"

What is resilience? | Be prepared | Scottish Borders Council

There are a number of new links included which access partners websites such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Borders, MET Office, Flood Forum Scotland etc. as well as to Ready Scotland who have all the information on home emergency plans and other great information.

Resilient Contacts

We have previously highlighted the benefits of having a group email address for contacting resilience groups. By setting up a single email

address it ensures you are not reliant on one individual picking up messages. You have control over who has access to the account, you can add or delete access as the group changes, you don't have to use personal email addresses, there are no GDPR issues as you are not sharing personal contact details without consent allowing you to share an email address widely that's not personally linked to an individual.

An email address not tied to an individual can provide better visibility and connectivity for your group. Broadening your communications to a wider audience, possibly generating more volunteers and the sharing of information across your community can become easier with a wider reach.

We would strongly recommend changing to a group email account, such as many already have for Community Councils.



Many email platforms such as Microsoft have shared email in systems like Outlook which come at no extra cost.



Phase out of Radio Teleswitch Service

As of January 2026, approx. 45,000 Teleswitch metered properties remained in Scotland making it one of the largest single areas of the UK alongside London and the Southeast still to see significant progress in changing meters.

From June 2025, the energy industry has been switching off the RTS signal for homes and businesses in targeted local areas, as part of a carefully managed phase out which will conclude this summer. RTS is an industry-led initiative with the process and plan to phase it out being led by the energy industry, Energy UK and the energy regulator Ofgem. Energy suppliers are responsible for replacing their consumers' RTS meters.

This phase out activity is due to commence across Scotland from the beginning of April after a pause over the winter period to ensure that consumers were not impacted over the coldest months.

Throughout the phase out process, the Government and Ofgem have been closely monitoring supplier readiness to ensure the process is smooth and vulnerable consumers are identified and protected. All affected customers are being contacted by their energy supplier to inform them well ahead of time if the RTS signal is being switched off in their area and offered a replacement appointment.

Suppliers have contacted these consumers numerous times over recent months to try and arrange a replacement, informing them that their heating and hot water arrangements may be impacted should they continue to have an RTS meter after the signal has been switched off in their area.

Do you think there may be someone in your area who may not have responded to the campaign or contact from their supplier?

Further information can be found here;
<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/transparency-document/radio-teleswitch-service-rts-shutdown-campaign-toolkit>

Wildfire Warnings from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

We have had a dry winter compared to previous years. This means that the fuel in the environment will burn readily if exposed to a heat source.

This can include discarded cigarettes, portable barbeques and broken glass refracting sun light. Where appropriate cut back garden margins and old growth early to reduce the chance of fire spread.

This should include around heating oil and LPG tanks external to the home.

Protecting your home from wildfire | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service section of SFRS website provides a wealth of advice on all aspects of Safety.

Winter Debrief & Co-ordinator Development 2026

We told you that we intended hosting a winter debrief in the spring. As the winter has been so mild and activity low, we find ourselves in the enviable position of having nothing to debrief. We will however be planning for the coordinator's development day in the autumn of this year.

We hope you have found the information in this newsletter useful and would encourage you to provide feedback to the Emergency Planning Team at Scottish Borders Council on what you would like to see included or better yet share your own personal story or group experience to help others.

Kind regards
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