

Small Grants Fund – Advice & Guidance (Feb 2024)

There's a huge variety of equipment available to support your community emergency plan and choosing the right thing can be a daunting task. To help you get it right check out our top tips for choosing wisely:

1. Identify the task

First make a list of the activity you'll be carrying out and identify the equipment you'll need to keep safe. This will help you focus on your particular needs and avoid buying items that go unused.

2. Check the rating, quality & lifetime of equipment

It's often tempting to go for the cheapest option but make sure you choose something suitable for the intended task; otherwise you could end up buying twice, or worse, have it fail and put you at risk.

Check if items like personal protective equipment are appropriately rated for your requirements and look out for endorsements such as the [British Standards Institute Kitemark](#) or [Trading Standards Buy With Confidence](#) logo.

Consider the lifetime of equipment before making a choice and identify any ongoing maintenance or training costs. Defibrillators for example, are available through a number of schemes with varying levels of future expenses and support.

3. Get in touch

If you're still unsure about a potential purchase - let us know! The Somerset Prepared partnership has a wealth of independent, professional experience from the Emergency Services, Local Authorities and Voluntary Sector that we're keen to share. This includes information such as:

- Appropriate safety standards for personal protective equipment;
- What to consider when buying defibrillators; and
- Useful equipment suggestions to support your emergency plan.

We can also put you in touch with other communities across Somerset in a similar position to you. Just drop us a line at info@somersetprepared.org.uk and we'll do our best to help you in the right direction.