PLACE OF SAFETY

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Is there a contractual obligation once the venue is included in the scheme?

There is no contractual obligation for the venue to be used as a Place of Safety. It is understood that venue availability is on a best-endeavors basis. If, upon request by Somerset Council, the venue is unavailable due to an ongoing or scheduled event another venue will be contacted.

Who covers the cost of a Place of Safety?

If activated by the Parish/Town or City Council as a community Place of Safety you would be responsible for any costs.

If activated by Somerset Council, reasonable costs of the venue hire can be reimbursed. If deemed necessary by the venue owners, this can included the cost of heating, lighting and any light refreshments. The reimbursement of a venue's use will be discussed on a one to one basis after the emergency has been declared over. If Place of Safety opened under the direction of Somerset Council, any damage as a result of being used as a Place of Safety during an emergency may be reimbursed by Somerset Council.

Who covers the cost of the insurance?

Venues opened by the community should be covered by venue or Parish/Town Council insurance. It is imperative that you check that the building's insurance includes these types of events. Venues opened under the direction of Somerset Council's Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery Team will be covered under the Somerset Council insurance.

Who do I contact if a venue is opened as a Place of Safety?

If a Place of Safety venue is opened by the community at any hour day or night, notify Somerset Council by contacting Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 and ask for the Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery Team. There may be a delay to speak with operator out of hours.

What if I need help with vulnerable people?

If you have vulnerable people that need more attention, contact Somerset Council Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery Team on 0300 123 2224 and Somerset Council staff and voluntary agencies can provide assistance.

What happens to the information I filled in on the Places of Safety form?

The information you completed on the form will be uploaded to the Emergency Planning, Response and Recovery Team database. This allows our Duty Officers to find an appropriate venue quickly in an emergency. The information is held securely. You will need to ensure that this information is kept up to date and email somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk with any changes.

Who can I contact for further information?

Please email somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk with any further questions.