Waternish Community Emergency Plan-26th August 2026

Waternish Community Council area population is estimated at 293 people based on the 2022 Census, spread across approximately 69 km², giving a population density of 4.25 people per km².

The Waternish Community Emergency Plan was prepared in accordance with The Scottish Government's Guide to Emergency Planning for Community Groups 2026.

A plan helps communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies using their own strengths – skills, knowledge, and resources – while complementing official efforts. **A local plan helps communities manage until responders arrive**.

It is important to remember that you should never do anything which puts you or anyone else in your community at risk.

North of Scotland Resilience Partnership (Highlands & Islands, Grampian & Tayside) – a multi-agency region-wide network that co-ordinates emergency preparedness, risk assessment, coordination and resilience planning across the North. They co-ordinate regional activity alongside local groups like the Highlands and Islands Local Resilience Partnership.

This plan supports the work of the Skye and Lochalsh Emergency Liaison Group, led by Police Scotland, with partners including the emergency services, NHS, the Council, and other agencies.

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Vulnerable Community Members are at the heart of the Emergency Plan

Things to consider
• Levels of mobility • People who have recently had an operation • People without access to transport • People reliant on regular medication and/or health visits
• Community Emergency Group members to compile list of priority community members in line with General Data Protection Regulation • Priority community members will be invited to join the list and can join/leave the list voluntarily • Each vulnerable person would require 3 volunteers that could be asked to do check-ins during an emergency • Members of Emergency Group could share list of vulnerable residents with Emergency Services during an emergency

Community risk assessment

Risks Including Likelihood	Likelihood	Impact on Community	What can Community Emergency Group do to Prepare?
Power outages	Highly Likely	• Loss of heat • Loss of lighting • Loss of hot water • Loss of cooking facilities • Loss of refrigeration • Loss of communication (broadband and telephone) • Possible impact on electronic medical equipment • Potential loss of pumped water for Geary • Defibs are battery powered so will not be affected • Local business interruption	• Community Emergency Group co-ordinate initial response depending if short/long term outage • Vulnerable Community members check-ins • Use of Hall for emergency heating/cooking facilities? Generator required? • Emergency Generators - identify • VHF/Satphone for emergency communications • Encourage community members to sign up for SSEN updates • Community Emergency Group to share SSEN updates online • Emergency evacuation centre(s) required?

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Severe Weather (Storms/Snow/Ice)	Highly Likely	• Community cut off • Loss of Emergency Services as unable to access • Loss of Community access to transport and public transport • Disruption to Carers • Potential accident risks for pedestrians and other road users • Potential damage to property • Access to food • Access to fuel • Driveways/paths blocked • Local business interruption	• Community Emergency Group co-ordinate initial response • Vulnerable Community members check-ins • Communicate with Highland Council Roads for updates • Piles of Salt/grit – identify areas • Encourage residents to maintain an emergency cupboard with supplies including food, candles, lanterns, torches • Warnings to people via Social Media • Emergency evacuation centre required? • Identify exit routes
Water outages	Highly Likely	• Loss of sanitation • Loss of hot water for washing • Loss of cooking and drinking waters • Local business interruption	• Community Emergency Group co-ordinate initial response depending if short/long term outage • Vulnerable Community check-ins • Sign up for Scottish Water text alerts and share updates • Encourage residents to register for Scottish Water updates • Liaise with Scottish Water if emergency water supplies are required • Emergency evacuation centre required? • Identify and map spring
Wildfire	Possible	• Impact on property/buildings • Loss of power, water, road blockages, loss of road surface • Possible evacuation required	• Emergency Services to be contacted • Community Emergency Group offer any assistance required to Emergency Services • Road safety volunteers

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		• Local business interruption	• Beaters positioned around key areas • Emergency evacuation centre required? • Contact Dunvegan Fire Brigade for Waternish risk assessment
Missing Person	Possible	• Injury/death • Hypothermia	• Emergency Services to be contacted • Community Emergency Group offer any assistance required from Emergency Services • First Aiders/Responders called depending on situation • Community search volunteers if required
Communications outages	Likely	• Loss of internet/telephone network • Loss of Emergency Service contact	• Community Emergency Group co-ordinate initial response depending on outage level • VHF/Satellite hubs to be set up for emergencies • Star Link subscribers? • Map of mobile coverage & blackspots
Road Traffic Accident	Likely	• Road blockages • Impact on emergency services access • Impact on carers access	• Emergency Services to be contacted • Community Emergency Group offer any assistance required from Emergency Services • Accommodation providers to inform guests of driving rules & correct use of passing places to improve road safety

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Community assets that could be called upon in an Emergency

Skill/Resource	Name	Description	Contact Details
VHF radios	Iain Matheson Alan Sillence Anyone else?		
First Aid trained people	Iain Matheson Calum Matheson Sorely Matheson Pat Matheson Catherine Matheson Ann Williams Alan Sillence Kathy Sillence Anyone else?		
Defibllirator	See map including Stein Inn		
First Aid Kits – high grade	Iain Matheson Alan Sillence Anyone else?		
Epi Pens	Iain Matheson?		
SatPhone			
Mobile Generators	Alan Sillence Iain Matheson Cathy/Pat Myhill Anyone else?		
Chain Saws	Iain Matheson Alan Sillence Anyone else?		
Heavy Duty Tools/Rope/Pully Blocks/	Iain Matheson Calum Matheson Alan Sillence DJ Campbell		

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4 x 4 Vehicles	Alan & Kathy Sillence	Land Rover, Quad Bike	
Fuel	Alan & Kathy Sillence	Vehicle Fuel	

Key Locations identified and agreed with Authority as Places of Safety

Building	Location	Potential Usage In An Emergency	Contact Details
Waternish Hall		Solar power sufficient? Energy needs if used as emergency centre?	

Volunteers that are prepared to participate in a Community Emergency Group

Name	Address	Telephone
Iain Matheson		
Pat Matheson		
Raymond Barnett		
Alan Sillence		
Kathy Sillence		

Volunteers that are prepared to help where they can during an Emergency

Name	Address	Telephone

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Activation Steps and Emergency Communication Plan

How would Emergency Plan be activated?			
Chain of community volunteers			
Consider possibility of having no digital communications – door-to-door contact. Cascade of community volunteers			

Consider equipment that could be purchased for Community benefit in an emergency

VHF radios for check-ins			
First-Aid Training			
Fire beaters & racks			

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