

Suffolk Emergency Planning - Community Rest Centre Training



From Tarik Foley <Tarik.Foley@suffolk.gov.uk>

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Good Morning,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Tarik Foley, and I am an Emergency Planning Officer with the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU) I am reaching out to you as the one of the contacts for your Town or Parish within Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide shelter for individuals who may be temporarily displaced due to an emergency. To fulfil this responsibility, we may establish a Rest Centre—typically staffed by trained volunteers from BMSDC. However, response times can occasionally be affected by staff availability and location.

With this in mind, to enhance our preparedness and community resilience, we also offer free training sessions to local community groups interested in supporting emergency response efforts within their town, parish, or neighbourhood. These sessions last approximately three hours and are designed to equip local volunteers with the knowledge and confidence to assist in Rest Centre operations.

Historically these sessions have been aimed at single communities but this year, we are hosting larger Community Rest Centre training events and we would be delighted to welcome attendees from your community.

Honington and Sapiston VH – 23/10/25

Haverhill Arts Centre – 18/11/25

Long Melford Community Village Hall – 26/11/25

All sessions [can be booked here](#) and will run from 1800-2100

We will also be hosting a session in Debenham, and another one on the Shotley Peninsula, so if those locations are preferred then please do let me know of any interest. Those dates will likely be early 2026, however.

Although the sessions are free of charge, booking is required via the Eventbrite page above. To ensure fair access across communities, we kindly ask that attendance be limited to a maximum of **four participants per area**.

Please feel free to share this invitation within your community for anyone whom you think might be interested.

If you have any questions or would like further information around emergency planning, you are welcome to contact me directly at **01284 758 461** or Tarik.Foley@suffolk.gov.uk.

Thank you for your continued support in strengthening our local emergency preparedness.

Warm Regards

Tarik



Tarik Foley
Pronouns: he/his
Emergency Planning Officer – West Suffolk

✉ tarik.foley@suffolk.gov.uk

✉ emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk

📞 Work Number 01284 758461

📞 JEPU Business Number 01473 265321

Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit

Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

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