

# Eskdalemuir Community Resilience Directory

Are you prepared for  
extreme weather events,  
power failure, flooding,  
heatwaves, or pandemics?

This guide will help you  
plan, prepare, and know  
what to do.

## Eskdalemuir Community Hub Resilience Project

INSPIRING SCOTLAND

Funded by the **Rural and Island Communities Ideas into Action Fund**.



# Contents

• About the Resilience Directory	3
• Profile of Eskdalemuir	4
• Neighbourhoods	5
• Eskdalemuir Hub	6
• Flooding	7-8
• Snow and ice	9
• Storms	10
• Wildfire	11
• Drought	12
• Useful information	13
• Local help available	14
• Emergency kit	15
• Emergency Water Filtration	16
• Feedback/Further info	17

# About the Resilience Directory

Resilience can have many meanings. In general, it is about having coping skills in times of adversity, and having some capacity to handle the unexpected as well as everyday life. To improve our resilience, we can work on being better prepared so that we respond well and experience less stress in emergencies.

The Resilience Directory aims to help us become more connected and organised as a community and is a first step for our community resilience plan.

The directory identifies **assets** in the community such as those with equipment e.g. 4x4 vehicles, snow ploughs, warm homes when there is a power cut, and first aid training.

The directory also gives people an opportunity to make their **needs** known. Although these are hard to predict and depend on the event, examples are: help with obtaining medication or food, snow or tree clearance, sandbag storage in preparedness for flooding.

*Top: (Marina Vundum) shows flooding in Eskdalemuir in 2012. Below (R Knox) shows knee-deep snow in the valley in Jan 2018 after Storm Fionn.*



# Profile of Eskdalemuir



*Snow in Eskdalemuir, January 2018 (R Knox)*

**Population:** Approx 265 (2001 census)

**One person households:** approx. 32%\*

**Households:** approx. 146

**Average Annual Rainfall:** 1827.17mm (*Met Office*)

**Sunniest month:** May

**Cloudiest months:** December/January

**Record high:** 32.3°C in July 2022

**Record low:** -19°C in January 2010

Eskdalemuir holds the UK record for the most rainfall in a 30 min period when 80mm fell on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1953 (*Met Office*)

*\* Figure from 2011 Census based on the whole DG13 0 postcode area (which includes Langholm)*

# Eskdalemuir

## Neighbourhoods

This page shows you which neighbourhood group your household is in.

Please see the map in the Hub for a larger scale version which shows all the neighbourhood groups.

The table to the right gives the **lead contact**, **first aider** and **defibrillator contact** for your neighbourhood.

Lead contacts will activate the phone tree and other communication methods in emergency situations. Everyone on the directory will be given information and advice on what to do.

Please remember that lead contacts and first aiders are all volunteers and only contact them at home when necessary. If you have any questions please speak to us at the Hub on 013873 73760.

If you haven't yet joined the directory and want to do so, you can pick up a form from the Hub or email:

[eskdalemuirres@outlook.com](mailto:eskdalemuirres@outlook.com)

Your Neighbourhood	Lead Contact	First Aider
<b>Hub Central</b>	Lara Porter (work hours) 013873 73760  Lisa Warden 07958 685365	Lara Porter (work hours) 013873 73760)  Lisa Warden 07958 685365

Central Defibrillator contact	Rob Feenie or Lisa Warden 07733 307765 07958 685365
<p><b>Please note:</b></p> <p>If you have an emergency and want to use the defibrillator, you, or a person with you must dial 999 first for the code. Once the code is given to you, the defibrillator gives instructions on what to do. The above contacts can help if you are alone and need someone to help, but it is always best to call 999 first.</p>	



# Eskdalemuir Hub

Eskdalemuir is classed as a remote rural community. The nearest shops and medical centres are 13 miles away in Langholm and Lockerbie.

In 2004 the Eskdalemuir Primary School closed its doors for the final time. Not long after in 2006, the Upper Eskdale Development Group (UEDG) formed, and in 2007 they purchased the disused school from Dumfries and Galloway Council for just £1. With £1.1m funding the school was redeveloped and the Community Hub & Cafe opened on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The hub runs yoga, art, and tai chi classes, and hosts community meetings, complementary therapies, art exhibitions, film nights, singing, live music, pool and pint nights, and other events. We also offer a wide range of items and gifts for sale in our shop which are supplied by local artists and crafters. Contact Trudi at the hub if you want to join the mailing list: 013873 73760.

The Hub now has a **defibrillator** (see page 5 for details). We also have an **EV charger** for cars which is located at the front of the building and a new covered bicycle shelter to the rear with **electric bike charging points** and **bike locks**.

Upstairs is our **community library**, a quiet and comfortable place to browse and borrow books.

With funding from The Robertson Trust, Muirhall, National Lottery, and Inspiring Scotland, we are working to become a resilience centre – a safe gathering space for the community in times of need.

**Warm Hub:** January—March 2023 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am-2pm Free drinks and soup, or donate if you want to.

**Community Food Table:** We have food items donated by the charity, **First Base**. Please make use of this, you can swap food items here or help yourself.

**Gardening Club:** With plans to grow food on site. New members are welcome. If you would like to join, contact: Jakki Gunn on [jakkigunn@hotmail.com](mailto:jakkigunn@hotmail.com)



# Flooding

The centre of Eskdalemuir where the Hub is situated is the lowest part of the community and is susceptible to flooding.

Eskdalemuir is at risk from:

- **Surface water flooding – due to heavy rainfall**
- **River flooding – when rivers and burns burst their banks**

In 2012 the village experienced surface water flooding, see top picture. In 2020, the River Esk burst its banks and the water came close to flooding the village, see bottom photo.

**Know the risk:** check SEPA's website and sign up to receive flood warnings (see page 13 for more details)

- **Prepare:** The council offers free flood surveys and a 50% subsidy towards flood mitigation products:  
<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15834/Flood-product-subsidy-scheme>
- **Create a flood plan:** What will you do if there is a flood? Create a bag of necessities in case you have to leave your home. Store valuables and important papers upstairs if you can (see page 15 for further help).



Top: 2012 village flood (Marina Vundum)  
Bottom: River Esk at Samye Ling 2020 (R Knox)

# Flooding

## Sandbag policy\*

There is no duty upon the Council to supply sandbags, but they do have a limited resource available to the public.

During extreme weather events, sandbags will be made available for the public to collect from designated road depots at these times:

- 9am to 3pm: Monday to Thursdays
- 9am to 12 noon: Fridays
- Excludes public holidays

The depots you can collect sandbags from are:

Depot	Sandbag supply
Harthill, Lockerbie	300
Wayside, Dumfries	300

*\* This information is taken from the Dumfries and Galloway Council website and it is wise to check there for up to date information.*



Top: 2013 village flood (Marina Vundum)  
Bottom: River Esk at Samye Ling 2020 (R Knox)



# Snow and Ice

During the winter months, Eskdalemuir's high precipitation can turn into heavy snow and cold temperatures below freezing are common. The record coldest temperature here was -19°C in January 2010.

Grit bins are located at **Ryehill Park, B723 to Lockerbie** above the Church, **Castle O'er** (near Cladach), and at **Twiglees**. They were last filled in December 2022. You can track gritters and report issues with grit bins on the council's interactive map at:

<https://dumgal.grittertracker.co.uk/dumgal/Home/Map>

## Risks:

- Accessibility and transport/supply issues
- Frozen or burst pipes
- Hypothermia or frostbite
- Slipping or falling on ice or in snow; falling through ice
- More stopping distance or breakdown risk when driving
- Flood risks with thawing

## How to prepare:

- For winter preparedness: [Ready Scotland Ready for Winter](#)
- Check or sign up for Met office extreme weather alerts
- Store enough food/water/medicine during winter months

- If you lose power **call 105** and have enough fuel, candles, matches, camping stove, blankets, hot water bottles etc.
- If driving, ensure you are prepared for a breakdown in cold weather (have a car emergency kit)
- Keep an eye on pipes, are they insulated enough? Turn off outside water supplies before freezing weather
- Have grit, snow shovel, and ice scrapers ready.



*Snow clearing at the Hub, January 2018 after Storm Fionn (Ernie Buck)*

# Storms

In 2021, Storm Arwen caused significant damage across the UK. It was unusual to have winds of up to 110mph coming from a northerly direction. In Eskdalemuir, one property was hit by a falling tree, but no one was harmed. Many properties were without power for two days. You can use this link to view power outages at any time:

[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/power\\_cuts\\_map.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/power_cuts_map.aspx)

## Risks:

- Power failure
- Damage to buildings and infrastructure from high winds
- Danger to life from falling or flying objects and lightning
- Accessibility issues from debris, downed trees, power lines etc.
- May also involve flooding or heavy snow

## How to prepare:

- Check or sign up for Met office extreme weather alerts
- Check your property for risks, e.g. loose tiles, unstable structures, unsecured items such as trampolines
- Have enough supplies in case of power failure and blocked access (see page 15 for emergency kit ideas)
- If you lose power call 105
- Avoid driving or going out unnecessarily.



*Tree on house after Storm Arwen, 2021  
(A Solomon)*



*Tree blocking the B709 in Eskdalemuir after Storm Arwen Nov 2021 (R Knox)*

# Wildfire

Eskdalemuir is home to a large area of commercial forestry and in recent years, drier and hotter periods of summer weather have increased the risk of wildfires.

Fire can spread fast and depending on wind movement can quickly change direction and bridge gaps. Even a small fire should be reported immediately by calling 999. Some forestry areas provide shovels for putting out small fires, but you should not put yourself at risk if you use one and always call 999 first.

## Be safe:

- Dispose of cigarettes properly and make sure they are out, dropping them on the floor is a fire hazard and classed as littering which is subject to an on-the-spot fine of £80
- Bonfires should always be supervised and are not advised when it's windy or humidity is low. You should not burn items such as tyres, paints, and plastics which cause toxic smoke, nuisance to neighbours, and air pollution
- Consider alternatives to burning such as composting leaves or cutting wood up for firewood
- Have a shovel and connected hose ready if you do have a bonfire

- Make sure barbecues and campfires are supervised, safely contained, and put out before you leave
- Never burn items when the wind is blowing towards properties
- Do not dispose of ashes until they have cooled
- Store flammable items away from your home and from fire sources, preferably in a fire-resistant brick or metal building or garage.



*Forest wildfire in US, Marcus Kauffman (Unsplash)*



# Heatwave/Drought

Despite having higher-than-average rainfall and cloud cover, Eskdalemuir has experienced high temperatures and periods of heatwave, most recently in the spring of 2018, and the summers of 2021 and 2022. In July 2022, Eskdalemuir experienced a record high of 32.3°C. Water supply issues are possible and some properties on spring water already suffer supply issues in dry periods.

## Water-saving tips

- A running tap wastes as much as 6 litres of water per minute. With a watering can or jug you can make use of running water. Also be mindful of how much you use when brushing teeth and washing up.
- In the garden, water evaporates rapidly on hot days. Hosepipes can use enough water in 30 minutes to fill five bathtubs. Water plants in the evening or early morning to minimise evaporation and allow time for water to soak in.
- Wash your dishes in a basin or bowl instead of under a running tap and wash the cleanest items first to save changing the water. Or use dishwashers only when full on the eco setting to help save both water and energy.

- Showers and baths account for about a third of household water use and about fifth of the average household energy bill. Reducing your showering by one minute can save over 4100 litres of water and 39kg of CO2 per person, each year.
- Use left over water from cooking or rinsing veg to water plants.
- Fit low flow aerators on your taps and showers. These affordable adaptors aerate your water supply, which means that you get the same water pressure but use much less water. Some water companies give these away for free.



*Hot dry period weather July-August 2021 (R Knox)*



# Useful Information

<b>ESKDALEMUIR HUB</b> Phone: 013873 73760 Email: <a href="mailto:hub@eskdalemuir.com">hub@eskdalemuir.com</a> Website: <a href="http://eskdalemuir.com">eskdalemuir.com</a>	<b>ESKDALEMUIR RESILIENCE PLAN</b> Stuart Green & Barry Young: <a href="mailto:eskdalemuirres@outlook.com">eskdalemuirres@outlook.com</a> Community Council: <a href="mailto:nicholas.j.jennings@gmail.com">nicholas.j.jennings@gmail.com</a>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b> NHS24 111 Samaritans 116 113 DGMHA 01387 268615 CROCUS 01463 714 568 Breathing Space 0800 83 85 87	<b>DUMFRIES &amp; GALLOWAY COUNCIL</b> Social care: 030 33 33 3001 Out of hours: 01387 273660 <a href="mailto:socialworkoutofhours@dumgal.gov.uk">socialworkoutofhours@dumgal.gov.uk</a> Report issues/make requests/info: <a href="https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting/">https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting/</a>
<b>POLICE SCOTLAND</b> Emergency 999 Non emergencies 101	<b>HEALTH</b> NHS 24 helpline 111 <a href="http://www.nhs24.com">www.nhs24.com</a> <a href="http://www.nhsinform.scot">www.nhsinform.scot</a>	<b>ROADS</b> Gritting: <a href="https://dumgal.grittertracker.co.uk/dumgal/Home/Map">https://dumgal.grittertracker.co.uk/dumgal/Home/Map</a> Road maintenance: 0800 5871 107 <a href="http://www.trafficscotland.org">www.trafficscotland.org</a> Report a pothole: <a href="https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/FaultReporting/">https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/FaultReporting/</a>	<b>PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b> <a href="http://www.travelinescotland.com">http://www.travelinescotland.com</a> <b>McCalls:</b> 01576 204309/01387 810261 (112 Lockerbie bus): <a href="https://bustimes.org/services/112-nether-cassock-lockerbie">https://bustimes.org/services/112-nether-cassock-lockerbie</a> <b>Telfords</b> 01387 375677 (124 Langholm bus): <a href="https://bustimes.org/services/124-langholm-eskdalemuir-2">https://bustimes.org/services/124-langholm-eskdalemuir-2</a>
<b>SEVERE WEATHER</b> <a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/">www.metoffice.gov.uk/</a>  <b>POWER OUTAGES</b> For all electricity providers 105 Gas leak 0800 111 999  <b>BROADBAND/TELEPHONE</b> BT Customer line 0800 800 150 EE support 0800 079 8586 TalkTalk help 0345 172 0088 PlusNet helpline 0800 432 0200 Vodafone 03333 040 191	<b>LOCAL HEALTH CENTRES</b> Langholm Health Centre, Charles St, Langholm, DG13 0JY. Phone: 013873 80355  Lockerbie Medical Practice Victoria Gardens, Lockerbie, DG11 2BJ Phone: 01576 205502	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b> SEPA pollution hotline 0800 807 060 <a href="http://www.ep-scotland.org.uk">www.ep-scotland.org.uk</a>	<b>RAIL</b> For disruption to rail services: <a href="https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_disruptions/indicator.aspx">https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/service_disruptions/indicator.aspx</a>
<b>WATER</b> Scottish Water 0800 077 8778 <a href="https://www.scottishwater.co.uk">https://www.scottishwater.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/">www.watersafetyscotland.org.uk/</a>	<b>FLOODING</b> SEPA floodline 03459 881 188 <a href="http://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk">www.floodlinescotland.org.uk</a>	<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b> Dumfriesshire & Stewartry Women's Aid: 01387 263052 07710 152772 (24hr) <b>CHILD PROTECTION</b> NSPCC 0808 800 5000	<b>CYBER SCAMS</b> Report Fraud 0300 123 2040 <a href="http://www.actionfraud.police.uk">www.actionfraud.police.uk</a> Police Scotland 101 <a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams">www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams</a>

## Local Help

### Cleaner

Jude Graham 07856 139993  
[goddessnrg@hotmail.com](mailto:goddessnrg@hotmail.com)

### Gardener

Lavender Girls  
 Jakki Gunn 07766 004720  
[jakkigunn@hotmail.com](mailto:jakkigunn@hotmail.com)

### Builder

**Aral Building Services (building, plumbing, tiling work)**  
 Alan Hamilton 07929 247906  
[ahamilton354@gmail.com](mailto:ahamilton354@gmail.com)

### Handyperson

Graham Wilkinson (general handyperson and electrical work)  
 07859 305311  
[Graham.wilkinson2015@gmail.com](mailto:Graham.wilkinson2015@gmail.com)

Richard Meguyer (general handyperson, decorator, plumbing and heating work)  
 07956 655414  
[meg@the-inta.net](mailto:meg@the-inta.net)

## Trusted Trader scheme from Dumfries and Galloway Council

**The Trusted Trader scheme helps you to choose a reputable trader based on customer feedback.**

The scheme is currently aimed mainly at home improvement traders. The traders are reviewed by customers as well as checked and monitored by the council to make sure they're trading legally.

*Note: When calling please remember to tell the trader that you got their information from the Trusted Trader website.*

To find a trusted trader use the link below to go to the council's page:  
<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/trustedtrader>

*Note: If you are using traders from outside the village, it can sometimes be cheaper to club together with neighbours to book services such as window cleaners, chimney sweeps etc.*

## Emergency Household Kit

Steven Clark of Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) compiled some suggested items for a home emergency kit: 'Create and build an Emergency Kit and keep it in a safe place that every member of the household knows about. Store the kit in an easy to carry, durable *Response Bag*. Have enough food and water and other essentials at home to last at a week. Whether you stay in your house or move out to a community hub, packing an emergency kit will help you.'

The following is an advisory list of contents:

1. Copy of your home emergency plan with emergency contact numbers.
2. Important documents such as Birth Certificates and Insurance Policies
3. Battery/windup radio with spare batteries
4. Battery/windup torch with spare batteries
5. A head torch
6. Mobile Phone charger(s)
7. A fully charged Power-bank
8. Candles and a lighter or waterproof matches.
9. First Aid Kit and essential medicines.
10. Toiletries including wet wipes
11. Blankets
12. Towels (preferably the small ultra-absorbent travel towels)
13. 3 or more days of Bottled water and/or a water filtering device such as LifeStraw (see page 15)

14. Food supplies
15. Baby food/formula/supplies if required
16. Can opener if required.
17. Penknife / Multi tool / Whistle
18. Spare keys to your home and car
19. Spare glasses/contact lenses
20. Pencil, pen, paper
21. Pet supplies

**Your Response bag and kit should be stored in a waterproof bag(s) if forecast conditions warrant such a move. Always keeping it in waterproof storage may damage/perish the bag and/or contents before you actually need them.**

If you must leave your home and you have time, take what your common sense tells you will be need. If it's safe to do so, consider leaving a note stuck to a window to inform responders of everyone who resides at that house and your current whereabouts/contacts.

In cold weather, some additional considerations would be:

- An ice scraper and de-icer.
- A shovel for snow.
- Warm clothes and boots.
- Some food, and a warm drink in a flask
- It is also good to have some sort of kit to keep in your car in the event of a breakdown.
- For further advice on being prepared for emergencies see [www.readyscotland.org](http://www.readyscotland.org)

## Emergency Water Filtration

LifeStraw is known for its humanitarian work creating affordable filtration in developing countries. They have also developed a straw that can filter water from rivers, ponds, lakes. It is popular with hikers and campers and also works well in emergencies when no tap water is available. It is useful for drinking directly from water sources but if you want to dispense clean water into another container for cooking, LifeStraw Flex or Katadyn Be Free would serve better. Prices are around £30.

Other companies such as Lifesaver, Grayl, Sawyer, Survival Filter, and Katadyn also make various water filtration systems that may suit your purposes. Some are quite pricey but have better filtration than LifeStraw and can remove water-borne viruses more effectively. It's worth reading reviews and doing some research.

See some reviews here:

<https://www.outdoorgearlab.com/topics/camping-and-hiking/best-backpacking-water-filter>

A cheaper short-term alternative is water purifying tablets, though they use chemicals and don't remove sediment.





## Feedback

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, it is worth checking before you commit yourself to buying a product or using any service mentioned in this booklet.

You are very welcome to give feedback on this document, please email [bookings@eskdalemuir.com](mailto:bookings@eskdalemuir.com) We also welcome ideas and suggestions for information that could be included in future updates.

## Further information:

Ready Scotland: Preparing for and Dealing with Emergencies  
<https://ready.scot/>

Scottish Government: Help during the Cost of Living crisis:  
<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Citizen's Advice: Help with the Cost of Living:  
<https://www.cas.org.uk/help-cost-living>

Cost of Living – Dumfries and Galloway  
<https://costofliving.dumgal.gov.uk/>



**Upper Eskdale Development Group**  
Eskdalemuir Community Hub  
Eskdalemuir  
Langholm  
Dumfries & Galloway  
DG13 0QJ



013873 73760



[hub@eskdalemuir.com](mailto:hub@eskdalemuir.com)



[www.eskdalemuir.com](http://www.eskdalemuir.com)



[www.facebook.com/RoomforAll](https://www.facebook.com/RoomforAll)