

Activities: 1. What is an emergency?

30
mins

What is an emergency?

Purpose:

To introduce the concept of emergencies, explore the different types of events that might cause an emergency and what impact that would have on young people and the community

Time: 30 mins

Resources:

Emergencies images – 1 set between two participants, flip charts, pens

1. Ask young people to work in pairs. Give each pair the emergencies images. Ask each pair to sort the pictures into three piles:
 - Emergency
 - Not an emergency
 - Not sure
2. Ask each pair to look at the images that they decided were emergencies and discuss what it is about these situations that make them emergencies. Each pair to list what they come up with on post it notes (these are the characteristics of an emergency).

Use the questions below to prompt if necessary:

- Does an emergency always happen suddenly?
 - Does it matter how many people are affected?
 - Does an emergency always involve loss of life?
 - Does it matter how often it happens?
 - Does it matter whom it happens to?
 - Does it matter who knows about it?
 - Does it matter what causes it?
3. Ask each pair to join with another pair and share their post it notes and come up with a sentence (or two) to explain what an emergency is.

4. Ask each group to share their definition and discuss any key similarities and differences. It is important in this discussion to talk about the difference between an individual emergency such as a medical emergency that affects them or a member of their family and events that threaten a part of or a whole community. What we are interested in here is emergencies that threaten a part of or a whole community.

Facilitator's note:

The Scottish Government defines an emergency as:

- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare
- An event or situation which threatens serious environmental damage
- War or terrorism which threatens serious damage to security

Explain that the types of events or situations include:

- Severe weather – storms, snow etc.
- Flooding
- Utilities failure (disruption of the gas, electricity and/or water supply)
- Online – threats to your online security
- Pandemics (infectious diseases that have spread rapidly amongst populations on multiple continents or worldwide)
- Animal disease outbreaks (e.g. foot and mouth, avian flu)
- Terrorism