



PENALLT

— COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN —



PREPARED • CONNECTED • RESILIENT

COMMUNITY RISKS AND RESPONSE GUIDE

Penallt-specific risks, local experience and realistic community support arrangements.

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Prepared • Connected • Resilient

In immediate danger call 999.

Follow instructions from the emergency services and responsible authorities.

**This guide is based on the Penallt Community Emergency Plan and recorded local experience.
It is not a generic national risk leaflet.**

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Penallt's local risk picture

Why incidents affect this community differently, and what support can realistically be provided.

!

Life safety comes first

Call 999 where there is an immediate threat to life. Do not enter floodwater, approach fallen power lines, enter smoke, work near unstable trees or take avoidable risks.

Local characteristics that shape the response

Hilltop and steep lanes

Penallt sits above the River Wye
Steep slopes concentrate rainwater
Narrow lanes limit alternative routes

Dispersed properties

Many homes are known by house name
Access may be difficult in bad weather
Community maps are operationally important

Fragile communications

Mobile coverage is poor or inconsistent
Many homes depend on Wi-Fi calling
Power or broadband loss can isolate households

Limited volunteer capacity

There is no standing warden network
Tucc has no operational role in this plan
Volunteers and resources must be confirmed

The risks covered

Weather and fire

Flooding from run-off and overwhelmed drainage
Severe weather, fallen trees and blocked roads
Extreme heat
Wildfire / vegetation fire

Utilities

Frequent power interruptions and prolonged outages
Loss of mains water linked to Monmouth infrastructure
Consequential loss of heating, cooking and communications

i

Local evidence used in this guide

Local history, conditions and capabilities are drawn from the Penallt Community Emergency Plan Version 1.7 dated 12 July 2026, including incidents and mitigation actions recorded by the community. Official guidance is used only for universal safety advice and public contacts.

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Flooding

Penallt's main flood risk is rapid surface-water run-off rather than widespread river flooding.

Although Penallt is on high ground, steep slopes towards the River Wye create a local surface-water problem. Heavy rain can run off agricultural land, concentrate on surfaced roads and overwhelm drains and culverts. The current plan records floodwater more than six inches deep on some roads during exceptional rainfall, including November 2024.

What may happen locally Water and mud flow from fields onto lanes Culverts and road drains are overwhelmed Individual properties are affected severely Routes become unsafe before wider areas flood	Existing local measures Sandbags have been distributed to some at-risk properties A reserve supply is stored at Pelham Hall Culvert inspection and remedial work are recorded as completed Availability must still be confirmed during an incident
What the community may do Share verified rainfall, road and drainage reports Pass blocked-drain or road issues to MCC Coordinate limited sandbag support if safe and available Identify specific welfare or access problems	What residents should do Act early if water begins to collect or flow Move people, pets, vehicles and valuables if safe Use property protection already held at the property Keep medication, phones and documents ready
!	Do not enter or drive through floodwater Depth, current, road-edge damage and contamination may be impossible to judge. Do not lift drain covers or try to clear a culvert while water is flowing. Turn around and use a safe route.
i	Do not rely on river warnings alone Penallt's surface-water and agricultural run-off flooding can develop quickly and may not match the timing or location of a River Wye warning. Watch local conditions as well as official warnings.

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Power outage and loss of water supply

Both risks have occurred locally and can affect households that are difficult to reach.

Prolonged power outage

The current plan records very frequent brief interruptions and estimates that outages lasting more than a few hours occur around six times each year. Many Penallt homes rely on electricity for heating and cooking; broadband and Wi-Fi calling may also fail.

Local community capability

Pelham Hall has battery storage
The plan calls for batteries to be charged fully when severe-weather warnings are issued
Stored energy is limited and must be carefully managed
Do not assume a generator is installed or available unless confirmed

Resident priorities

Report and track the outage through 105
Protect phone power and use torches rather than candles
Plan for electric heating, cooking and medical equipment
Tell the coordinator about an urgent welfare need



Keep clear of damaged electrical equipment

Stay well away from fallen or damaged power lines and anything touching them. Call 999 where there is immediate danger and report the fault through 105.

Loss of mains water

Penallt depends on the Monmouth pumping station. The plan records flooding at that infrastructure during Storm Dennis in 2020 and again in January 2024. In 2020, residents relied on bottled water for several days and many had to travel into Monmouth to collect it.

What the community may do

Share confirmed Dŵr Cymru and MCC information
Identify residents who cannot drive to a collection point
Coordinate delivery only when water and volunteers are confirmed
Record and escalate unmet medical or welfare needs

What residents should do

Keep a practical household drinking-water reserve
Follow boil-water or do-not-use instructions exactly
Allow additional water for babies, medical needs and pets
Do not travel to an unconfirmed collection point

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Severe weather and blocked roads

Mature trees, steep minor roads and limited alternative routes can isolate parts of Penallt.

The community is surrounded by mature trees. Storms can block lanes with fallen trees, branches and debris, while heavy rain, snow or ice may make steep roads unsafe. Main routes may be cleared before minor local roads, so some properties can remain isolated for longer.

i	Specific access concern: Tregagle The current plan records that overhanging branches in the Tregagle area can restrict access for full-size fire appliances. Any change in access should be reported promptly and kept clear of parked vehicles where possible.
What residents may see - Fallen trees, branches or debris - Local flooding and damaged road edges - Ice, snow or poor visibility on steep lanes - Delayed emergency or utility access	What the community may do - Share verified reports and safe-route information - Pass hazards to MCC, police or utilities - Request observations only from safe locations - Coordinate welfare contact for known isolated households
What residents should do - Avoid unnecessary travel in dangerous conditions - Tell someone your route and expected return - Do not move official barriers or improvise road closures - Report urgent access needs early	Specialist equipment - No chainsaw, tractor or 4x4 capability is guaranteed - Only confirmed competent operators may be tasked - Volunteers must not self-deploy - Emergency-service instructions take precedence
!	Do not approach unstable trees or fallen power lines Trees and branches may move without warning in wind or saturated ground. Keep people and vehicles clear and do not attempt clearance beyond your competence or authority.

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Extreme heat

A distinct welfare risk that can also increase fire danger and pressure on water and power supplies.

Extreme heat is treated separately from wildfire because the main community impact is often health and welfare rather than fire. Dispersed households, people living alone, outdoor work, livestock and homes that retain heat overnight can all increase local risk.

People at greater risk Older people and babies People living alone or with limited mobility People with heart, breathing or other health conditions Anyone taking medication affected by heat or dehydration	Local complications Some homes depend on electricity for cooling or medical devices Water supply problems would increase the impact Rural outdoor work and animal care continue in hot weather Mobile contact may be unreliable
What the community may do Repeat Met Office and Public Health Wales advice Coordinate requested welfare calls where volunteers are available Identify urgent medication, water or cooling needs Use Pelham Hall only if it provides a genuinely safer environment	What residents should do Drink water regularly and reduce strenuous activity Shade rooms by day and ventilate when it is cooler Check medication storage and powered equipment Provide shade and water for pets and livestock
!	Heatstroke is an emergency Confusion, collapse, seizure, loss of consciousness or serious illness that does not improve with cooling requires urgent help. Call 999.
i	Pelham Hall is not automatically a cooling centre The hall can only be considered if access is safe, it is authorised, volunteers are available and the building can provide a meaningfully cooler environment without exhausting limited power resources.

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Wildfire / vegetation fire

Low likelihood, potentially extreme impact because fire can spread rapidly through local vegetation.

The current plan records no previous Penallt wildfire, but identifies extensive brush, trees and other combustible vegetation throughout the community. A fire may develop with little warning, spread quickly in wind and become harder to manage during darkness.

i	Access and evacuation may be difficult Narrow lanes and the known Tregagle access constraint may delay large fire appliances. Residents with horses, livestock or multiple pets should make practical arrangements before a high-risk period rather than waiting for a fire.
What residents may notice Smoke, flames or a strong burning smell Ash or embers ahead of the visible fire Rapid change in wind or smoke direction Emergency vehicles or an instruction to leave	What the community may do Confirm that 999 has been called Share verified fire-service instructions Support safe communications and welfare tasks Prepare reception arrangements only when directed and safe
What residents should do Call 999 and give the best location available Leave early if instructed or a safe route may be lost Take medication and essential pet items only if time permits Do not block lanes needed by emergency vehicles	Pets, horses and livestock Plan safe destinations and transport in advance Do not release animals onto roads Do not delay personal evacuation to recover animals from danger Tell responders about animal locations and access
!	Do not attempt to fight an established fire The community response is warning, evacuation support, information and welfare. Do not enter smoke, approach the fire front or use unconfirmed firefighting equipment. Move to safety and follow the Fire and Rescue Service.

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Community information and support

How Penallt will communicate without wardens, and what Pelham Hall can and cannot provide.

Firewise prevention and emergency location

Residents close to woodland, grassland, farmland or unmanaged vegetation should reduce ember traps and combustible material around their homes. Keep roofs, gutters and roof valleys clear; repair loose tiles and soffit gaps; move log piles, compost, leaves and furniture away from walls; and cut back vegetation touching buildings. Seek advice before soffit work if bats may be present.

During prolonged dry weather, separate combustible planting and stored materials where practical, maintain gardens responsibly and do not place cut vegetation beyond the property boundary. Land beyond a private garden remains the responsibility of its landowner or manager; residents should not clear, burn or alter neighbouring land or protected habitat without permission and appropriate advice.

Because Penallt has no consistent road names or house numbers, every household should record the what3words reference for its main entrance or safest emergency-service access point. When calling 999, also give the house name, nearest recognised landmark and access restrictions. Larger sites should record separate references for gates, alternative appliance access, livestock buildings and significant hazards.

During elevated wildfire risk, where safe and practical, residents should position vehicles to leave without reversing and keep gates, lanes and junctions clear for emergency vehicles.

Communications in Penallt

Primary routes Official Emergency Alerts and warnings Village WhatsApp and established community groups Penallt website, Facebook and email MCC, NRW and utility-provider updates	When power or internet fails Battery or wind-up radio Telephone calls where contact details are already known Safe neighbour-to-neighbour relaying Notices at agreed locations when practical
i	No warden network and no TUCC operational role Penallt cannot guarantee a personal message or welfare check for every household. The response is coordinated locally using confirmed volunteers for defined tasks. Trellech United Community Council does not operate or staff this response.

Pelham Hall

Pelham Hall on Moorcroft Road is the potential operational base and Community Support Centre. The emergency box is stored in the lower store room. The building has two kitchens, toilets including an accessible toilet, two showers, electric heating and parking for around 25 vehicles. Facilities must be checked during each incident.

It may support Coordination, logging and briefings Information, charging and basic welfare Controlled distribution of confirmed supplies Short-term support while onward arrangements are made	It opens only when There is a clear need The building and routes are safe Use has been authorised Enough suitable volunteers are available
!	Do not travel to Pelham Hall unless advised Opening is never automatic and does not guarantee heating, power, water, transport, medical care or

overnight accommodation. A community message will state whether it is open, its purpose and safe access arrangements.

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Contacts and official guidance

Keep essential numbers on paper and use current official information during an incident.

Useful public numbers

Service	Telephone
Immediate danger: police, fire or ambulance	999
Police non-emergency	101
NHS 111 Wales	111
Power cut reporting and information	105
Dŵr Cymru operations / water emergencies	0800 052 0130
Dŵr Cymru sewer flooding / sewerage emergency	0800 085 3968
Natural Resources Wales Floodline	0345 988 1188
NRW environmental incident reporting	0300 065 3000
Monmouthshire County Council	01633 644644
MCC out-of-hours emergency line	0300 123 1055

Official guidance

[Monmouthshire County Council: flooding and emergency planning — open official guidance](#)

[Natural Resources Wales: flooding, warnings and flood risk — open official guidance](#)

[Natural Resources Wales: check flood risk by postcode — open official guidance](#)

[Met Office: UK weather warnings — open official guidance](#)

[Powercut 105: power cut reporting and support — open official guidance](#)

[Dŵr Cymru: incidents in your area — open official guidance](#)

[Public Health Wales: hot weather guidance — open official guidance](#)

[South Wales Fire and Rescue Service: wildfire safety — open official guidance](#)

Local facts are drawn from the Penallt Community Emergency Plan Version 1.7 dated 12 July 2026. Public contact details and online sources were checked against official sources on 12 July 2026. Current official information takes precedence during an incident.