



# Real Emergencies Real Impact

## Carrick Resilience Team

Community First Responders, Built from the Ground Up

Carrick Resilience Team has been a vital part of the South Ayrshire community since its establishment in 2019. Comprised of 20 dedicated volunteers from all walks of life who live across the Carrick area, the team exists to provide vital logistical and welfare support to both the general public and core emergency responders during times of need.



*"The drone has already been used in search and rescue. It gives us a clear view from above, even in the dark, and makes a real difference during emergencies and events."*



Extreme weather, remote terrain, and hard-to-reach locations have exposed gaps in local emergency response, where traditional services often lack the specialist equipment or training needed. Carrick Resilience Team was created to help bridge this gap—providing practical support during challenging incidents and prolonged emergencies.

Whether operating independently or alongside emergency services and local authorities, the team ensures vulnerable residents and isolated communities get the help they need, showing the vital role of community-led action in building local resilience.



## ARIA Grant Funded Projects

In 2024–25, Carrick Resilience received a grant award from ARIA, along with support from NADARA and South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership, to improve emergency response across Carrick. The funding supported two key projects: a £36,754 grant replaced their ageing 1997 ARGO with a modern all-terrain vehicle, now in active use, while the old one is retained for training.

A second grant of £8,430 funded a DJI Matrice 30T thermal imaging drone, which performs far better in poor weather and low light. With 16 volunteers trained, the drone is already proving invaluable for search and rescue and public safety.

## Making a Difference

The new equipment is already proving its worth in real situations across Carrick. The team assisted the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a multi-agency response to individuals injured on a cliffside path.

They also helped emergency services during a wildfire near Loch Spallander by sharing aerial footage and helping coordinate the response.



Carrick Resilience also support vital local initiatives beyond emergency response—using their grant-funded equipment to assist with tasks like beach cleans, path clearing, and community event safety.

*"It's been over a year in the planning, fundraising and hard work, but we finally took delivery of our new ARGO. It's bigger, easier to use, quicker, safer, and more reliable. We're grateful to ARIA and our other funders for making this possible."*

Investing in the right equipment and training—especially for drone use—has made a real difference in how quickly and safely the team can respond. While some of their work involves sensitive situations that can't be publicly shared, the impact remains significant. Retaining the old ARGO for training and lighter tasks has helped maximise the value of their equipment.

Most importantly, the team recognises that strong partnerships with councils and funders are essential to making projects like this a success.

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