

Helping You To Help Yourself



January 2019



The Met Office has some useful advice for preparing for winter here www.bit.ly/MetOfficeWinter

Advice covers:

- Travel
- Your home in winter
- Staying well in winter

'Get Ready for Winter' is a campaign run and implemented by the Met Office on behalf of Cabinet Office.

Get Ready for Winter joins up messages from Government and voluntary sector partners to encourage individuals, families and communities to think about

winter preparations they can make to help them stay warm, healthy and safe.

Members of the public visiting the Met Office website for the latest weather forecast are able to access up-to-date expert advice from carefully selected organisations to ensure they can prepare for and respond to the weather, to stay safe and protect their property.



Devon Community Resilience Forum



The Devon Community Resilience Forum met on Thursday the 22nd November at Broadclyst Victory Hall.

This event included workshops and presentations from a variety of organisations and provided an opportunity to share ideas and network with likeminded individuals.



speakers included:

• Richard Clarke – Public Health England – Preparing for and Responding to a Flu Pandemic

• Justin Sharples – SWAST (South West Ambulance Service) – Community Defibrillators

Workshop sessions included:

- The Camden Flu Game and the Flood Resilience Game
- 2 way radio practical – hands on experience of radio equipment and introduction to radio protocol.

Resources are available at:

www.bit.ly/DCRF-resources

The next event is planned for 13 June 2019 in Bishops Nympton!

SWIM



The Devon County Council Flood Risk Management team are now using a new reporting tool for collecting information on flood events – SWIM (Severe Weather Information Management).

This tool has been developed to serve as a straightforward, web-based system which allows members of the public, flood wardens and Flood Risk Management authorities to enter details about current or recent property flooding online.

Records submitted will be reviewed by the Devon County Council Flood and Coastal Risk Management team in line with specific criteria set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy www.bit.ly/flood-risk-strategy.

For more information or to submit a record, please visit the SWIM webpage at <https://swim.gowessex.com/devon/>.

Storm names for 2018-19 announced

On the September 11th the Met Office and Met Éireann revealed the list of storm names for the coming season.

First introduced in 2015, this is the fourth year the Met Office and Met Éireann (the meteorological service in the Irish Republic) have jointly run the 'Name our Storms' scheme, aimed at raising awareness of severe weather before it

'female' and named Bronagh, following the alternating male/female pattern established by the US National Hurricane Center in the 1970's.

This season's names have once again been compiled from a list of suggestions submitted by the public, choosing some of the most popular names but also selecting names that reflect the nations, culture and diversity of Britain and Ireland. As in previous years, Q, U, X, Y and Z will not be used, to comply with the international storm naming conventions.

www.bit.ly/why-name

Although naming storms has helped raise the profile of severe weather, there is still work to be done in advising people to take action.

When is a storm named?

A storm will be named on the basis of 'medium' or 'high' potential impacts from wind but also include the potential impacts of rain and snow, i.e. storms will be named for weather systems which we expect an Amber or Red warning will eventually be issued by the Met Office's National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS).

The following video explains what happens when a storm is named:

www.bit.ly/when-named

The 2017-18 season saw ten storms named, from Aileen in September to Hector earlier this summer. Last year we also saw Ex-Hurricane Ophelia, named by the National Hurricane Center.



A Ali	H Hannah	O Oliver	V Violet
B Bronagh	I Idris	P Peggy	W Wyn
C Callum	J Jane	Q	X
D Deirdre	K Kevin	R Ross	Y
E Erik	L Lily	S Saoirse	Z
F Freya	M Max	T Tristan	
G Gareth	N Niamh	U	

Why do we name storms?

Naming storms has been proved to raise awareness of severe weather in the UK, providing a consistent message to the public and crucially prompting people to take action to prevent harm to themselves or to their property.

hits.

This year the first storm was 'male' and named Ali, while the second storm was

The following video explains why storms are named:

Flood Warnings

Knowing what to do in a flood could save your life and keep your family safe

Can you imagine how awful it would be to have to throw all your furniture, your children's toys and clothes, even photographs, into a skip because they had been contaminated by toxic flood water?

What about moving into a caravan or temporary accommodation with your children, for months? Not much fun at all.

But this happens to people who have been flooded, and it's devastating.

Approximately 67,000 homes are at risk of flooding across Devon and Cornwall, but up to half of people don't know they are at risk or what to do in a flood - putting their property and their family's safety at risk.

The mental health impacts of flooding can last for two years or more after flooding has happened. Depression, anxiety and PTSD can affect up to a third of people who have been flooded. But taking steps to prepare for flooding and knowing what to do in a flood can significantly reduce the damages to your home and possessions and reduce the likelihood of suffering from these mental health impacts in the future. More importantly, it can keep you and your family safe.

Start by taking one simple step today to help protect yourself, your home, and your family from the devastating effects of flooding. Visit the what to do in a flood page on GOV.UK www.bit.ly/what-to-do-in-flood so you know how to 'Prepare, Act, Survive' in a flood.

Kate Pearson, from the Environment Agency, said, "Flooding can cause serious

Flood warnings - know what to do?



FLOOD ALERT

PREPARE

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk



FLOOD WARNING

ACT

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

SURVIVE

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk

FLOODS DESTROY

Hotline on 0345 988 1188

#PrepareActSurvive

disruption to people's lives. We can't prevent it, but we can help people to be more flood resilient. Those who are aware of the risk and have done something about it are able to reduce damage to their homes and possessions considerably.

We always welcome support from Community Emergency Response Teams and Local Councils to promote our flood action campaign. You can use the campaign materials online and in your communications, and to share with customers and networks: www.bit.ly/floods-be-prepared

Travelling in winter

Winter service is an important part of our maintenance work and almost £5 million is spent each year on roads affected by winter weather. This involves salting major roads when there is a risk of ice, clearing snow and reacting to floods and fallen trees.

The Council's contractor, Skanska has a workforce based at strategic locations to provide an effective response to any problems that may occur.



Despite our efforts, winter weather can still make roads treacherous. With over

90% of all crashes attributed to human error the real key to driving in winter is to drive with due care for the conditions. Never assume a road has been salted.

More information can be found in the Travelling in Winter leaflet www.bit.ly/travelling-in-winter.



The Met Office have a guide (www.metoffice.gov.uk/barometer/advice) for travelling in adverse weather conditions, if you NEED to travel please take care and adhere to warnings.

Winter fuel

Winters can be quite harsh, especially when there is wind or rain involved. Even the most well-insulated house will have a problem staying warm without the proper amount of heating. That is why you should pre - order your winter fuel, to make sure you always have a steady supply on hand and never have to shiver the night away due to low or no heat coming into your home.



Besides the fear of you and the family having to go to bed cold, another reason to order early is to beat the rush. Many people forget to buy early, so they end up doing so at the last minute. This creates a logjam for deliveries, it can also drives up the total price to buy.



Some fuel suppliers may even offer discounts if you can team up with other households that use the same fuel (gas, oil, coal or pellets), so you can team up with them to place a bulk order to save even more money. If a truck can deliver to several houses in the same area on the same day, they may offer an even deeper discount, since transportation costs will be lower with a single delivery.

Winter Fuel Allowance

If you were born on or before 5 November 1953 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you are eligible and you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit).

If you're eligible but do not get paid automatically, you will need to make a claim www.bit.ly/winter-fuel-claim

The deadline for claiming payments for winter 2018 to 2019 is 31 March 2019

If you do not get your payment, call the office that pays your benefits - their details are on any letters they sent you.

Any money you get will not affect your other benefits.

Community reserve volunteers



Get ready to help

You can help your community in a crisis.

The community reserve volunteer program is a new volunteering opportunity allowing you to make a difference during a flood, fire or any other major emergency near you. Sign up today and take the first step towards being prepared in a crisis.

Click here (www.bit.ly/BRC-CRV) to watch the video and check out the BRC FAQ's (www.bit.ly/BRC-FAQ) for more information about becoming a community reserve volunteer.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone can become a community reserve volunteer; no specialist skills are required and quick training is provided at the scene. You just need to meet the criteria below.

- I am 18 or above
- I have watched the video above
- I understand I will be called upon in a crisis
- I understand I will only be asked to help in my local community.

For more information and to sign up click here www.bit.ly/BRC-reserves



Reporting an emergency on the highways that needs immediate attention

Call 0345 155 1008. An emergency is 'something that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury or serious damage to property.' Otherwise please use <http://soc.devon.cc/qCCct>

If the incident is on the M5, A30, A303, A35 or A38 contact Highways England on 0300 123 5000

Further information and support

For assistance with community Emergency Planning your first point of contact is your City, District or Borough Emergency Planning Officer.

You will find them listed below for reference and remember they are all there to help you!

Don't forget, the Devon Communities Together website has lots of useful information for both individuals and communities:

- www.devoncommunities.org.uk
- [What we do](#)
- [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#)

Useful information:

CLEAR Plan	www.dcisprepared.org.uk/a-clear-plan
Floodline	0345 988 1188
Environment Agency	www.gov.uk/flood
Consumer Council for Water	www.ccwater.org.uk
National Flood Forum	www.floodforum.org.uk
Blue Pages Directory	www.bluepages.org.uk
Association of British Insurers	www.abi.org.uk or 020 7600 3333
British Insurance Brokers Association	www.biba.org.uk or 0870 950 1790
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors	www.rics.org/flooding
Know Your Flood Risk campaign	www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk

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