



Emergency Planning Newsletter

Issue No 7
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Devon County Council Emergency Planning Service
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HELPING YOU TO HELP YOURSELVES

Community Emergency Planning

Devon County Council's Emergency Planning Service is focusing attention on raising the proportion of communities with emergency plans from 30% to 60% by 2012.

A Devon wide survey in 2008 revealed that nearly 44% of respondents already had an emergency plan in place (or were in the process of writing one) and 37% would consider writing one in future. Over the next 18 months workshops will take place around the county providing guidance and information to help Parish and Town Councils create emergency plans. A schedule for these workshops is included overleaf.

Bampton Parish Council worked closely with the Environment Agency and Devon Council to develop their community flood plan. The plan was 'launched' at a well attended community event in early September. They are now using this plan as the basis to move swiftly on to develop a full community emergency plan.

Following the floods in Gloucestershire and elsewhere, in Summer 2007 Sir Michael Pitt was commissioned to review the UK's preparedness for flooding emergencies. He made 92 recommendations, one of which was to stage a national flood exercise. Exercise Watermark, as it is known, will run over five days from 7th to 11th March 2011. It will provide scenarios for communities, schools and businesses to test their plans. So mark that date in the diary and

get your community emergency plans ready!

It has been said "*The British people repeatedly show their resilience in the face of severe disruptions, from war, terrorism or natural disasters.*" Communities are uniquely positioned to harness local resources and expertise to help themselves, in a way that complements the response of emergency services. A resilient community is a community that steers itself into a more sustainable future.

For detailed advice on Emergency Planning, Parish Councils should contact their District or Borough Emergency Planning Officers' contact details are included overleaf.

Household Resilience



A simple household guide has been produced by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). It outlines how households can prepare for and

help themselves during an emergency.

Whilst the leaflet is available from many public service points throughout Devon, Parish Councils are being asked to assist in making the leaflets available in their community. This might be including one in the Parish Newsletter or making them available in local Post Offices etc.

There is an electronic version available on the LRF web site www.dcisprepared.org.uk and this could be downloaded and placed on Parish and Town web sites for download by the community.

If you think you can help make this important guidance available to your community please telephone or email your district:

01392 382680

or

emerplan@devon.gov.uk

Winter Motoring

It's that time of year again! So what can you do to make driving in winter conditions safer this year?

Firstly prepare; make sure your car has anti freeze in the coolant system and the tyres are the correct pressure. Also, when the weather starts to get colder make sure you check weather forecasts and allow plenty of time for your journeys, including time to clear the windows properly!

More information is available on the Highways Agency web site:

www.highways.gov.uk/customer/25614.aspx

Flood & Water Bill

The Flood and Water Management Bill, published in April and recently included in the Queen's speech, proposes a comprehensive review of the laws surrounding flooding and coastal erosion.

Much of our existing law dates from the 1930's and 1940's and is considered narrow, outmoded and unsuited to the increasing impacts of climate change. The draft Bill aims to give all professional partners a clear and unambiguous foundation for flood and coastal erosion management. It aims to clarify roles and responsibilities, and shifts the emphasis from building and keeping defences in good order to more broadly managing risk. The draft Bill includes important legal provision for surface water management responsibilities. The proposed duty for local authorities to produce local flood risk management plans – covering flooding from

surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses would help bridge a current knowledge gap. While flood defence remain will remain an important activity, the draft Bill would also create a clearer legal framework to support other types of work, including measures to increase flood resistance and resilience of at risk properties. The draft Bill also includes important measures to improve conservation of water supplies in times of drought and to tighten water industry regulation.

Finally, new rules for reservoir safety would better protect communities downstream from the risk of dam failure. The draft Bill proposes replacing the 1975 Reservoirs Act and moving to a risk-based approach, regulating previously unregistered reservoirs that are below the present threshold of 25,000 cubic meters (approx equivalent to eight Olympic size swimming pools).

Have you put ICE in you mobile?




Eight out of ten people in the UK carry a mobile phone most of the time. The emergency services are trained to check for the ICE number.

Standing for 'In Case of Emergency', ICE allows the emergency service to contact someone. Think carefully about who you choose as an ICE partner because that person may need to give consent to medical treatment. If you want more than one ICE contact, save them as ICE1, ICE2 etc. There is no easier way of letting the emergency services know who to contact if you are in an accident. If you don't carry a mobile you can keep the same information in a wallet or purse.

First Point of Contact

Did you know your City, District or Borough Emergency Planning Officer is your first point of contact for assistance? You will find them listed below for reference. Remember they are all there to help you!

Also, the Devon County Council website has lots of useful information for both individuals and communities:

-  www.devon.gov.uk
-  Safety and Emergencies
-  Emergencies

Town & Parish Emergency Planning Workshops

Emergencies and/or natural disasters affect communities in different ways. A more resilient community is likely to recover more rapidly from such an event. Devon County Council has partnered with the Environment Agency and District Councils to deliver a series of workshops around the County. These workshops will provide initial guidance and information to help communities develop their own Emergency Plan.

The outline schedule for the Emergency Planning workshops currently being rolled out across the

county is now in place. These multi-agency events have received very positive feedback from all those attending the pilot sessions in East and West Devon earlier in the year. Invitations will be sent to Parishes in advance, so keep an eye on the post!

- East Devon 1 Jul 09**
- West Devon 15 & 16 Sept 09**
- North Devon Early Mar 10**
- Torrige Late Mar 10**
- Mid Devon Late May 10**
- Teignbridge Early Sept 10**
- South Hams Mid Sept 10**
- Exeter Nov 10**

Teignbridge	East Devon	West Devon	North Devon	Exeter/ Mid Devon	South Hams	Torrige
						
Ilan Flood-Page 01626 215835 iflood@teignbridge.gov.uk	Jane Tancock 01395 516551 jtancock@eastdevon.gov.uk	Nick Payne 01822 813600 npayne@westdevon.gov.uk	Paul Bourton 01271 388312 paul.bourton@northdevon.gov.uk	Peter Brown 01392 265904 peter.brown@exeter.gov.uk	Peter Dale 01803 861273 peter.dale@southhams.gov.uk	Ruth Staddon 01237 428806 ruth.staddon@torridge.gov.uk