



Your exclusive newsletter from the Devon Community Resilience Forum

May 2025

Spotlight: Risk



**Environment
Agency**

Environment Agency
updates to flood and
coastal erosion risk data



The Environment Agency has published updated data for the [National Flood Risk Assessment](#) and a new National Coastal Erosion Risk Map. The latest updates mean that the flood risk for some homes and businesses may have changed.

The new [NaFRA \(National Flood Risk Assessment\)](#) provides a single and updated picture of the current and future flood risk from rivers, the sea and surface water for England. In England, you can see what the long term flood risk is in specific areas and sign up for flood warnings where available.

For the first time, checking your long term flood risk will provide information on;

- ☐ Future flood risk, taking into account climate change.
- ☐ Potential flood depths, both for present day flood risk and in relation to climate change.

The new NCERM (National Coastal Erosion Risk Map) provides the most up-to-date national picture of the current and future coastal erosion risk for England.

[Check your current long term flood risk](#)

[Click here to sign up for flood warnings](#)



Heat

We all like a bit of sunshine, but in 2022 the UK saw the hottest day so far recorded with a temperature of 40.3 degrees centigrade at Coningsby, Lincolnshire. At the same time, the first ever red Heat Health Alert was issued which included areas of Devon and Cornwall. The summer of 2022 saw approximately 2,985 heatwave related excess deaths, with 335 of those being in the Southwest.

DCRF attended Exercise Helios, an extreme heat workshop run by Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (DCIoS LRF). This desktop exercise involved emergency services, local authorities, NHS, voluntary sector organisations and other agencies, who tested how they would respond to a heat emergency.

The recommendations were aimed at LRF members who would be involved in the event of a major incident. However, some would be applicable at a more local scale.

What we learned from the day was that extreme heat should be considered when writing community emergency plans, particularly considering those who might be vulnerable to heat such as older people, those with health conditions and transient populations such as holiday makers. Also the rest centres might need to serve as cool shelter in a heatwave.

You can find more information on hot weather and heatwaves on the government's Prepare website and the Met Office Weather and Climate pages.

[More information on hot weather and heatwaves](#)

[More information on how to keep cool in hot weather](#)

Case Study Request



Have you deployed emergency equipment?

Have you needed to put your emergency plan into action?
If you have ever needed to use a generator, two way radio, pump or other equipment in an emergency we would love to hear from you!
What worked? What didn't? Have you bought equipment which has gathered dust ever since?
We will be putting together some advice leaflets on various bits of kit, and would like to include some real-world advice.

Send us your case study examples here

TRAINING



The National Consortium for Societal Resilience (UK+) jointly with the Resilience Beyond Observed Capabilities Network+ run a series of 'How to...communities' webinars. Registration is essential.

How to address flood risk

2nd June 2025, 4:30pm - 6:00pm (UK time)

Register:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/fa40dec3-a1e5-43e7-bdbb-76075cc1b90c@c152cb07-614e-4abb-818a-f035cfa91a77>

How to respect animals and cultures in disasters

25th June 2025, 7:30pm - 9:00pm (UK time)

Register:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/05f30049-d25b-46f9-b6f4-d787b45db5e4@c152cb07-614e-4abb-818a-f035cfa91a77>

How to support the wellbeing of volunteers

1st July 2025, 4:30pm - 6:00pm (UK time)

Register:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/daed81b2-a162-4680-ad22-13600e530c1c@c152cb07-614e-4abb-818a-f035cfa91a77>

Communities Prepared run a series of webinars covering topics including: introduction to resilience, flood and wildfire volunteering, and heatwave awareness. For more information go to

<https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/events/>

Road Warden training: If your community is interested in joining the Road Warden Scheme, details and training information can be found at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme>

UPDATES



Digital Switchover

It is clear from our recent Forum and discussions with communities that the switch to digital home phones remains, rightly, of real concern. The rural Services Network (RSN) of which DCT is a member, reported recently on the parliamentary debate on the digital switchover.

RSN is a member of the Digital Voice Advisory Group for BT, providing rural insight and raising concerns with BT about the switchover from the perspective of rural communities.

If you would like to read the full debate in Hansard please click the link below.

[Click here for the full debate](#)

[Click here for the digital switchover](#)

EMERGENCY KIT



72 hour survival kit

Last year the government issued advice that everyone should be prepared to manage for 72 hours in the event of an emergency <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/>. In the light of the recent blackouts in Spain and Portugal, this seems ever more pertinent.

If you want to see the suggested survival kit list and share it with your community you can find it here <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies/>

The DCRF Emergency Plan template is available on our [website](#) and includes a home emergency plan.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding grants of up to £5000 is available to help protect your home if it is affected by flooding.

This sum included a detailed flood risk survey of the property that will identify the required resilience measures and provide the property owner with flood resilience equipment. To qualify you must have been affected by internal flooding or be considered to be at very high risk of flooding.

You will need to obtain 3 quotes for the works and you must be willing to top up the additional funds if quotes exceed £5000. You must be able to provide evidence of the extent of flooding, such as photographic proof.

Applications are reviewed every three months.



[Application form and more information](#)

Resilience Funding

Up to £250 is available to help communities to develop their Community Emergency Plan.

Up to £1,500 is available to support small scale works and resilience equipment for those communities that have an emergency plan in place or are in the process of preparing one.



[Click here for more information and how to apply](#)

EVENTS



Emergency Plan workshops

We are holding two emergency plan workshops in the coming weeks. Open to all members of town and parish councils and members of the public interested in emergency planning, there will be presentations and discussions from the Devon Community Resilience Forum Team. Find out why to plan, what to include and hazards and risks to know about. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided.

Book:
Tuesday 20th May, 6pm - 8pm.
Kentisbeare Village Hall,
Kentisbeare Cullompton. EX15

Book:
Tuesday 11th June, 6pm - 8pm.
Kilworthy Park
Tavistock, West Devon. PL19 0BZ.



Community Resilience Drop in
session - East Devon area
Tuesday 20th May, 6pm - 8pm
The Pavilion, Back Lane, Newton
Poppleford. EX10 0EZ.
There will be 10 minute presentations
by the Environment Agency,
Westcountry Rivers Trust, Devon
County Council and East Devon District
Council.
No booking required.



DCRF Forum

The March Forum took place in Langtree Village Hall where an impressive 49 delegates attended representing 19 communities from across Devon.

The main feature of the day was a desktop exercise for communities to test their emergency plans against an extreme weather scenario. We also heard from Torridge and North Devon resilience officers Simon Bridgeman and Alex Miles about their and Camilla Town from Wiltshire and Swindon Local Resilience Forum (LRF) about Community Emergency Hubs, all the presentations can be found on our [website](#).

The next forum will be held in East Devon in September. We are finalising the date and venue and will send a save the date as soon as they are confirmed.

EMERGENCY PLANS



FREE emergency planning support

If you don't already have an emergency plan and would like some guidance on how to create one, get in touch for free advice and support._____

There are free resources on our website, including guides, sample and template plans and case studies.

Perhaps you have created a plan independently. If so, please get in touch - we upload all community emergency plans to the secure platform Resilience Direct (details above) which can be accessed only by the relevant local authorities, emergency services, NHS and appropriate agencies. This enables them to plan for response and recovery to emergencies.

New and updated emergency plans

We are pleased to report the following new or recently updated community emergency plans:

- ☐ Bovey Tracey
- ☐ Dittisham
- ☐ Dolton
- ☐ Exton
- ☐ Lydford
- Nymet Rowland

[Click here for the Map of Emergency Plan locations](#)

[Resilience Forum Resources and Case Studies](#)



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