

Helping You To Help Yourselves

DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

AUTUMN 2019

HMRC ALLOCATES EORI NUMBERS TO ALL POSSIBLE TRADERS

GOV.UK

You need an EORI number to move goods into or out of the EU (including the UK).

If you do not get one, you may have increased costs and delays. For example, if HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) cannot clear your goods you may have to pay storage fees.

You'll need an EORI number that starts with GB to move goods in or out of the UK if there's a no deal Brexit.

If you already have an EORI number that starts with GB, you can continue to use it. It will be 12 digits long. If you're registered for VAT it will include your VAT registration number.

As many traders as possible will be



automatically allocated an EORI number to enable them to trade smoothly once the UK leaves the EU on 31 October.

Every business will need an EORI number to move goods into or out of the EU after Brexit. HMRC is sending letters to all possible VAT-registered businesses over the next two weeks to advise them of their assigned UK EORI

number.

If your business is not VAT-registered, you still need to register for an EORI number. Getting an EORI number is an easy process that takes 5-10 minutes. Get started here bit.ly/EORI-SW

STOP PRESS.STOP PRESS #30days30waysUK

A national campaign to improve resilience is currently taking place. www.30days30waysuk

is encouraging people to be more 'emergency-ready' each day throughout September. Devon County Council are running a Twitter campaign through @DevonAlert so follow and retweet.



Neighbourhood Alert (Alert) is the largest, secure, two-way community messaging system in the UK. It is used by more than half of the UK Police Forces as well as Fire & Rescue Services, Police Commissioners and Local Authorities.

The system typically delivers over 6 million, targeted, relevant, secure messages a month on behalf of over 12,000 Police and public-sector users, to over 650,000 members.

Alert is the national messaging system used by Action Fraud and is utilised by the Home Office for national and regional iterative surveys to help educate the public to protect themselves against Cybercrime and fraud. Alert hosts and provides unique, seamless integration with the official national Neighbourhood Watch Register (www.ourwatch.org.uk). Neighbourhood Watch trained administrators provide an invaluable,

seamless, data validation service across the system ensuring that even in austere times, vital admin work is done and the database is constantly managed, updated and accurate.

Built in partnership with police forces since 2008, Neighbourhood Alert allows members of the public to stay up to date with the latest news in their area. You will also have an opportunity to score the Public Sector on the messages you receive and to reply directly back to them, if you feel it appropriate to do so. You can watch

a presentation here www.bit.ly/neighbourhod-alert and more information can be found here www.bit.ly/alert-overview



Storm names for 2019-20 announced



Met Office and Met Éireann, along with new partner KNMI, have revealed the list of storm names for 2019-20.

First introduced by the Met Office and Met Éireann (the meteorological service in the Republic of Ireland) in 2015, the Name our Storms campaign has helped raise awareness of the potential impacts of severe weather in Britain and Ireland before it hits. Now in its fifth year, Met Office and Met Éireann are joined by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), the Dutch national weather forecasting service.

Earlier this summer Met Office and Met Éireann received thousands of suggestions from the public after asking people to send in ideas for future storm names. Working with Met Éireann and KNMI, the list for 2019-20 has been compiled from these suggestions, choosing some of the more popular names along with names that reflect the three nations diversity.

Gerard van der Steenhoven, Director General at Royal Netherlands

Meteorological Institute (KNMI):

"We are looking forward to working closely with the UK Met Office and Met Éireann. Storms are not confined to national borders, so it makes sense to give common names to such extreme weather events."

Evelyn Cusack, Head of Forecasting at Met Éireann, said: "The naming of storms by National Met Services as well as colour coding weather warnings provides a clear, authoritative and consistent message to the public and prompts people to take action to prevent harm to themselves or to their property.



Derrick Ryall, Associate Director of Public Weather Service at the Met Office said: "We were delighted with the public response to our call for names earlier this year and are really pleased storm naming has been embraced."

To find out more about Name our Storms you can visit the Met Office Storm Centre website www.bit.ly/storm-names

Flood Warnings

Knowing what to in 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

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

Environment Agency logo, floodsdestroycampaign.gov.uk, FLOODS DESTROY if Prepared, Floodline on 0345 988 1188, #PrepareActSurvive

Agency, said, "Flooding can cause serious 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

Chimney Fire Safety



Colder nights fast approaching is a timely reminder to make sure that your chimney is ready for the winter months ahead. For more information visit www.bit.ly/chimney-safety

Keep it clean

A clean chimney can help prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flues will eliminate the build up of soot and clear obstructions such as bird or animal nests, leaves and debris. You will also reduce emissions into the atmosphere by assisting the complete combustion of the fuel.

It is not sufficient to use a vacuum cleaner and you should ensure your chimney flue is inspected regularly to prevent fires breaking out. Remember that fire guards can prevent serious injury or death and spark guards can prevent a serious fire.

Chimneys should be swept:

- ☆ at least once a year when using smokeless fuels
- ☆ at least once a year when using bituminous coal
- ☆ every three months when using wood
- ☆ once a year when using oil
- ☆ once a year when using gas.

Make sure you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers, never block air bricks, vents or flues and fit a carbon monoxide detector.

Prevention

- ☆ Don't use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.

- ☆ Don't burn paper or rubbish.
- ☆ Do not overload the fire with fuel.
- ☆ Go into the loft occasionally, when the fire is alight, to check for smoke from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints.

If a chimney fire happens:

- ☆ Leave the room, close the door and alert other people in the house
- ☆ Get out of the house, call 999 and ask for the fire & rescue service
- ☆ Stay out until the fire and rescue service arrive.

Always ensure you have a working smoke alarm in your property.

Always use a competent chimney sweep who is able to provide you with a certificate upon completion of their work.

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 April 1954 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

You can start your claim from 1 November 2019 and this winter the deadline for claiming payments is 31 March 2020.

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 www.bit.ly/report-a-highways-problem

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
- [Projects](#)
- [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#)

Useful information:

CLEAR Plan	http://bit.ly/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.nationalfloodforum.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
Know Your Flood Risk campaign	www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk

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