

Helping You To Help Yourselves



Spring 2018

Chudleigh Emergency Centre

Mike Underwood - Mayor



With the spring weather just about upon us, it is difficult to believe that only a few weeks ago Devon was semi-paralysed with deep snow, high winds and drifts'

Chudleigh Town Hall is one of only three designated centres in the Exeter City region, providing an emergency service to this side of the Haldon Hills. And so it was at lunch time on Thursday the 1st March the town hall received the call from the Devon County Council Emergency Planning Duty Officer that our services would be needed. What had not been explained until the day,

to Diane and Gary who, like well-oiled machines, just slotted into their roles and took the strain. Councillors played their part too, with a twenty-four rota quickly set up and so by mid' afternoon as "clients" started to arrive the town hall was fully staffed.

What a wonderful community we have here in Chudleigh. It seemed that within minutes of DCC declaring the emergency we had volunteers arriving at the town hall with cakes (always welcome), offers of beds, four wheel drive vehicles and shovels. Indeed the whole voluntary effort continued 36 hours as stranded "visitors" were ferried back to their vehicles after the worst of the weather passed. And what can be said about our superb catering establishments in Chudleigh who produced food at the drop of a hat



seemingly all night long.

As Mayor I would like to say a special thank you, not only to the staff and councillors at the town hall, but to all those volunteers, whether they were drivers, shovelled snow, bed makers, cakebakers or just called in to give support - what a smashing town it is in which we live'



was that unlike previous years, Devon County had no staff to spare and so we were on our own!

The Town Council does have an "emergency plan, and this was swiftly put into action, Tribute must be paid to Amii (who controlled the whole process) and

Whilst Chudleigh was in the safe hands of the community DCC was able to get staff volunteers and others to a Rest Centre at Okehampton Community College. This was opened for both snow events in March. The second time gaining National press and TV interest due to the presence of a couple on their wedding night. Not quite the evening they were expecting! www.bit.ly/Okehampton-Mar18. Without the help of communities like Chudleigh, Local Authority staff and other volunteers hundreds of road travellers would have been stranded overnight in their vehicles.

Does your community have a plan to man a local rest centre or place of safety if something happened locally? For more information on how you could help visit: www.bit.ly/Devon-Forum



@DevonAlert



@DevonAlert is the Devon County Council Highways and Emergency Planning twitter account.

With in excess of 6,800 followers it is the twitter account you need to follow for information and updates about highways, emergencies and community resilience from the Emergency Planning team at Devon County Council.



Check your boat for smooth sailing this summer

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service are encouraging all boat owners to take care when out on the waves and waterways this summer. www.bit.ly/safe-sailing

With the boating season getting under way, the fire service is keen that owners ensure they make vital safety checks and learn more about fire and carbon monoxide risks, to stay safe this summer when on the water. For more information follow this link www.bit.ly/boating-season

When a fire occurs on a boat its impact can be devastating, often leading to the vessel being destroyed. Follow simple top tips to keep your boat and those on board safe, or download the handy booklet and keep it on your boat to remind yourself of key tips. www.bit.ly/boat-booklet

Marc House, Community Safety Prevention Manager said: "The remote location of most moorings means that fire and rescue services can find it hard to get close to boating incidents. On many occasions this delay can result in the total destruction of the boat and surrounding property."

Fire can spread quickly on a boat even on water. The following advice and guidance will ensure you stay safe.

Smoke alarms

- Optical sensor alarms with hush buttons and 'sealed for life' batteries are best for boats.
- Fit alarms in places you will hear them clearly if they sound.
- Consider installing linked alarms that will go off at the same time.
- Test the alarm each time you board and never disconnect it or remove the batteries.

Carbon monoxide (CO) & gas detectors

- Fit a CO detector that is suitable for marine use and meets the British Safety Standards.
- Fit a bubble type leak detector in the gas locker.
- Push the detector button on a regular basis to check for leaks in the gas system.

Cooking on board

- Never leave cooking unattended and turn cooking appliances off properly after use.
- Be extra careful if you are cooking with oil as it can easily set alight.
- Keep the cooking area clean - a build-up of grease can start a fire.
- Use a spark device to light a stove



without its own ignition.

- Avoid cooking if you are under the influence of alcohol or prescription drugs.
- Standard BBQs shouldn't be used on boats.
- Ensure you keep the cabin well ventilated
- Keep fabrics away from cooker tops.
- Ensure all hobs have shut-off or isolation valves.

For further information about general boat fire and CO safety, visit the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service webs page Boat Safety Scheme www.bit.ly/boat-safety-scheme

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service also provide Fire safety for caravans and mobile homes

www.bit.ly/safe-caravanning

Overhead Power Lines Safety Campaign

#LookOutLookUp

On average, one farm worker dies each year as a result of contact with an overhead power line. In the last five years, there were 1,140 near-miss incidents involving machinery and overhead power lines where serious injury or death was a possibility.

In response to the scale of such incidents, Energy Networks Association and GB's electricity network operators have joined forces to launch Look Out Look Up! – the key objectives are to:

- Raise awareness of the risks of overhead power lines.
- Increase understanding of how to deal with them safely.
- Motivate people who may come into contact with power lines to adopt safe behaviours.

- Encourage people to recognise 105 as the national number for power emergencies across the UK.

Please do support Look Out, Look Up! by downloading and sharing the content available here www.bit.ly/campaign-toolkit.

Assets for use include a film, social media copy and accompanying images and content sized for Twitter and Facebook, key campaign messages and a case study of a farmer involved in an overhead power line incident.

You can also download the different assets referenced in the toolkit from the links below:

- [Social Media Assets](#)

- [Look Out, Look Up! Safety Videos \(all versions\)](#)

- [Look Out, Look Up! Toolkit](#)

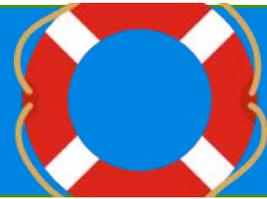
- [Thunderclap Social Media Support](#)

- [Public Safety Leaflets](#)

- [Power cut and power emergency advice](#)

- [What is 105?](#)

With your help, we hope to make sure as many of our target audience as possible are aware of how to behave around overhead power lines in order to minimise the risk of serious injury.



As the the summer approaches it is worth remembering that each year UK citizens drown on holiday abroad and at home.

The Royal Life Saving Society provides advice and information on their website www.bit.ly/holiday-water-safety

Being aware of the basic principles of water safety on holiday combined with knowledge and understanding of the hazards, can increase enjoyment and significantly reduce the number of deaths each year.

Top Tips

- When researching your holiday, or arriving at the destination if you haven't yet done so, check the safety arrangements of any water-based activities and if there is lifeguard cover at the pool/beach
- Check bathing sites for hazards, check the safest places to swim and always read the signs – find out what local warning signs and flags mean
- Make sure the whole family can swim
- Swim with any children in your care – it's more fun and you can keep them close and safe
- Never swim alone



- Follow the pool rules
- Take time to check the depth, water flow and layout of pools

Never enter the water after drinking alcohol

- On beaches check when the tide will be high and low and make sure that you won't be cut off from the beach exit by the rising tide. Also be aware of dangerous rip-currents

- Inflatable dinghies or lilos are a

well-known hazard – each year there are drownings as people on inflatables are blown out to sea. Do not use them in open water

- Do not swim near to or dive from rocks, piers, breakwater or coral
- Swim parallel to the beach and close to the shore

People preparing for their summer holidays should ensure simple advice is followed by all members of the family.

In addition to the above tips, ensure you and your family know the **SAFE** code:

SPOT	ADVICE	FRIEND	EMERGENCY
spot the dangers	follow safety signs and advice	stay close to a friend or family member	shout for help and know the emergency number to call in the country you're in



Devon and Cornwall 4x4 Response

Volunteer Emergency Logistical Support

In some parts of the country during the recent snow event organisations put out requests for members of the public with 4x4 vehicles to assist with the movement of staff.

Whilst such offers are appreciated this is not something we encourage in Devon as they are usually unknown to us. We also cannot be sure that the drivers are suitably experienced in the conditions, have well maintained vehicles and are

suitably insured.

We would recommend that anyone wanting to help in the future joins Devon and Cornwall 4x4 Response www.devonandcornwall4x4response.com as they provide a lot of volunteer drivers who are used by the emergency services and local authorities.

If you have held a licence for three years or more, are properly insured, with well

maintained vehicles and have an understanding of off-roading and recovery techniques, then look on the website or email to find out more.

info@devonandcornwall4x4response.com

Grant funding for emergency flood resilience



It seems to have been raining for months and if your community is worried about the possibility of flooding there may be some help available.

Devon's towns and villages are urged to apply for a grant to help reduce the impact of flooding on their communities.

Grants of up to £1,500 are available to flood groups, community groups and town and parish councils which can be used to support measures to increase a community's flood resilience.

The Devon Emergency Flood Resilience Fund has been provided by Devon County Council and is being issued through the Devon Community Resilience Forum.

The money can be used to buy simple equipment like temporary flood barriers, sand bags, waterproof sheeting, road signs, emergency blankets and equipment for volunteers including tools, torches, high vis jackets and radios.

The Fund is available to groups with a community emergency plan or flood plan in place but not individuals.

In some circumstances groups without a plan in place may still be eligible for a grant if a draft plan is being developed and it can show how the funding will support that plan.

And in exceptional circumstances the grant may be used as a contribution towards small scale, practical works that will immediately benefit the community.

Councillor Roger Croad, Devon County Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for Environmental Services, said: "We have made this fund available as part of the county council's commitment to help communities help themselves. We know that small resilience measures can significantly improve the speed householders and communities are able to respond to

flooding and can reduce the impact of flooding."

Communities that have already benefited this year include Abbotskerswell, Ilfracombe, Kingsbridge, Lapford

To find out more about this fund and for an application form go to:

www.bit.ly/flood-grant

Or contact Greg at Devon Communities Together

email: info@devoncommunities.org.uk

tel: 01392 248919 (9.00am - 5.00pm)



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

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](#)

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