



March 2016

Thrill seekers and wave watchers risk lives

The Environment Agency and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) are warning that people posing for 'storm selfies' are putting their lives in danger.

Andy Wilkinson, Environment Agency Duty Flood Risk Manager, said:

"In recent years an increasing number of people have put themselves, family members and rescue workers at severe risk whilst wave watching and taking storm selfies. Please remember to take extreme care on coastal paths and promenades. Flooding of low lying coastal roads is also possible and people should also avoid driving through flood water: just 30cm of flowing water is enough to move your car.

Claire-Marie Mason of the RNLI said, 'Those particularly at risk from storm conditions are walkers on beaches or harbour walls when the water is high; spectators looking at the waves who get too close; and anglers fishing from rocks or exposed headlands. With storms forecast, areas that you may have considered safe before could be

underwater when large waves come ashore.'

'If you are planning a coastal activity, our advice is to respect the water; watch the shore from a safe distance and assess the conditions - think about the risk before deciding if you need to go closer.'

Top tips to stay safe

- Try to avoid walking through flood water because there may be hidden hazards such as potholes and missing manhole covers.
- If you have to walk in a flooded area, be aware of the power of moving water, try to wear waders and take a stick to check the ground in front of you as this may save your life.
- Do not try to capture scenes of severe weather by taking 'selfies', getting too close to rough seas or walking in exposed areas. Stay safe and consider whether it's necessary to venture out.

To see a video of just how dangerous waves can be, follow this link:

www.bit.ly/Wave-Danger

The people in this video survived but it serves as a reminder just how dangerous waves can be.



Bridge Road, Exeter

Widening and improvements

In February 2016 Devon County Council started work to widen Bridge Road to provide two continuous outbound lanes from Countess Wear to the Matford roundabout in order to tackle queuing and reduce journey times for all traffic, while at the same time improving pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

The road network on and connecting to Bridge Road currently suffers from a number of problems:

- severe traffic congestion
- poor air quality – Countess Wear has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area
- poor public transport journey times
- unreliable journey times for all traffic.

planned works on Bridge Road is being built and will include information on the works along with the option to sign up/subscribe to email alerts to keep you informed regarding any developments. When finished the website will also include live information regarding traffic flows that might help you to plan your journey.

A dedicated website relating to the

www.bit.ly/bridge-road

Data Protection for Community Resilience Groups



Keeping information about members of the public.

Many groups that are involved in building community resilience hold personal information about people in their communities. This is usually information about:

- Group members and volunteers who sign up to help; and sometimes
- People in their community who may need particular help in an emergency

For resilience groups, following the Data Protection rules is a requirement, and isn't difficult. Data Protection rules are there to protect people's privacy, not to get in the way of helping them in an emergency.

Some larger groups will already have a data protection policy. If that applies to your group, you should continue to follow it. If you don't have one, you can use this guidance, which is based on advice from the Information Commissioner's Office.

Further guidance and contact details can be found on their website at:

www.ico.org.uk

1. Collect the right personal information, in the right way

You should always:

- Only collect details that you need.
- Keep information in password protected files or locked storage.

- Keep information up to date by reviewing it regularly.
- Permanently and securely delete details that you no longer need.
- Permanently and securely delete details if the individual concerned asks you to do so.

2. For volunteers

Keeping information about volunteers is relatively straight forward, as it is unlikely to be highly sensitive. The basic information that is required is: name, skills and resources (e.g. trained first aider, or access to a 4x4 vehicle) and contact details.

3. For people who might need help in an emergency

In an emergency, if you are worried about someone's welfare, you may need to share their personal details with another organisation. For example, you might want to give details of someone who needs particular help to your local authority. It's also possible that another agency might share someone's personal details with you, for example to enable you to knock on their door and check on them.

The sort of information that you might need to record is: name, address, contact details, and factors that might contribute to their vulnerability, such as if someone has been recently discharged from hospital, or if they have mobility problems. Because this information may be sensitive in nature, you should treat it

with particular care.

4. Tell people how their details will be used

It's important to let people know that their details will be handled securely. If you collect information verbally you can do this verbally. If you use a form or survey to collect information, you can include a written statement.

For volunteers you could say:

"We will only use the information you have given us if we need to contact you in an emergency situation, to ask if you are able to take part in activities which will help in the community. It will be kept securely. If you no longer wish to participate in this initiative, please contact us at [\[insert contact details\]](#) and your details will be securely deleted."

For people who require help you could say:

"In an emergency situation we may use the details you have given us to contact you in order to check whether you need assistance, or we may pass your details on to the emergency services in order that they can help you. Your personal information will not be used for any other purpose and it will be kept securely. However, if you no longer wish us to keep your details, please contact us at [\[insert contact details\]](#) and they will be securely deleted."

British Red Cross support to flood victims



The response to the recent flooding, and the continued recovery in affected communities, once again demonstrated the incredibly valuable role played by volunteers and voluntary sector organisations. People gave up their time and energy throughout December and into January helping in any way they could.

The British Red Cross respond to hundreds of emergencies each year and

were one of those Voluntary Sector organisations involved in the response and recovery efforts in the wake of Storms Desmond, Eva and Frank.

You can read more about this at:

<http://bit.ly/Red-Cross-Flood>



The government has confirmed the terms of reference for the National Flood Resilience Review, which will be chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Oliver Letwin.

Established following Storm Desmond, the Review will assess how the country can be better protected from future flooding and increasingly extreme weather events.

It will focus on four key areas: updating our climate modelling and stress-testing the nation's resilience to flood risk; assessing the resilience of our important infrastructure like electricity substations; our temporary defences; and our future investment strategy.

Oliver Letwin, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said:

This Government is strengthening our country's flood defences, including spending £2.3bn over the next six years. This new review will make sure communities are as protected as they can be from the kind of extreme weather we saw last December.

Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss said:

We need to be sure we have the best possible plans in place for flood prevention and protection across the whole country. This Review will identify any gaps in our approach and pinpoint where our defences and modelling need strengthening, allowing us to take

prompt action.

The Review is set to be published this summer and the team will include the Government's Chief Scientist, Defra, DECC, DCLG, HM Treasury and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency.

During the autumn, the government will begin implementing any short-term measures identified, and will begin work to review the longer term strategy, which will include close consultation with the National Infrastructure Commission.

The full terms of reference for the National Flood Resilience Review Group (NFRRG) are below:

The first task is to carry out a new assessment of the damage that extreme rainfall could cause across England. This will allow us to take a hard look at how our cities, towns and villages stand up to severe flooding. It will assess the impacts on crucial elements of local infrastructure, including significant roads, bridges, energy infrastructure, water treatment plants, telecoms and hospitals. This will provide a 'stress test' of our nation's resilience to flooding, so improving our understanding of the possible implications of extreme events. In doing this we will also review whether the assumptions in current modelling are still sound. We will shortly be issuing a call for evidence to inform this work.

With this evidence and analysis in hand,

government will then turn to considering the longer term strategy on flood risk alleviation. This will look at temporary and flexible responses as well as hard flood defences beyond the current six-year programme. This will include the balance between protection and resilience, an assessment of risk in England's core cities and will consider the role of both government and wider society in reducing flood risk. The Review will align closely with Defra's work on integrated catchment-level management of the water cycle in the government's 25 year Environment Plan.



Government will engage widely through the process and will provide an update in the spring.

For more information visit:

<http://bit.ly/flood-review>

Extreme Weather and You

A public event on extreme weather and climate science

Extreme Weather Event is a new kind of event offering you a unique opportunity to get the story straight from the scientists, and to put your experience of extreme weather here in Devon at the heart of the debate. This is a public event for everyone to attend. Please note; the evening session is ticketed.

The winter of 2013/14 saw devastating floods and storms in Devon. This winter other parts of the country have shared in the misery.

With so many people flooded and so

much damage to infrastructure, the question arises: how do we live with extreme weather events? And how will our future look?

The day is split into two parts:

Extreme Weather and You (11.00 - 17.00)

This is a whole day of talks and workshops with a variety of family-based activities which are free to attend.



A question of extremes, including Climate Change Question Time (19.00 - 21.30)

Our ticketed evening event is a great opportunity to hear one of Britain's best-loved science broadcasters and an expert guest presenter; Helen Czerski, science broadcaster, and Dr Peter Stott, of the Met Office.

For more information visit:

www.bit.ly/extreme-event

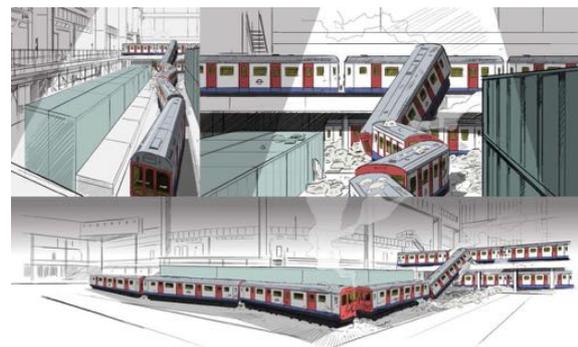
The biggest multi-agency training exercise in our history



Exercise Unified Response is a large scale and complex, live and command post exercise, which will be held between 29 February 2016 and 3 March 2016, and will be conducted simultaneously at four separate venues in central and south east London as well as at a disused power station located near the Dartford river crossing. The scenario will be based on a significant building collapse, incorporating heavy transport and mass casualties.

It will also be used as an opportunity to validate arrangements for integrating assistance from specialist teams - such as those responsible for urban search and rescue - that are based elsewhere in the UK and from other countries in the European Union.

An evaluator from Devon County Council and one from Devon & Cornwall Police will be teamed up to consider the care of people within the survivor reception centre, the rest centre and the humanitarian assistance centre over three days. In addition to them evaluating the exercise on behalf of the LRP, they will bring back the learning in support of Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum with an aim to reviewing more local arrangements and planning assumptions.



Useful information:

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
-  [How can we help you](#)
-  [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#)

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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