



WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of RCRG ezine

We hope you find this edition of the ezine informative and useful when preparing for the season ahead.

Community Resilience Pilot: Prepare, Adapt, Strengthen

In today's world with ever-increasing threats including the impacts of climate change, the need for communities to draw on local inherent community resilience is becoming more critical.

Over the past few months, in partnership with Local Government Civil Contingences, Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and Mid and East Antrim Borough

Council (MEABC) have been delivering a Community Resilience pilot titled 'Prepare, Adapt, Strengthen' to progress community resilience in an integrated manner across both Council areas.

Through a series of interactive workshops and in-depth interviews with community groups and Local Government officers, the pilot explores what resilience means; how communities view and identify risks; and how to understand capacities and vulnerabilities to build resilience in their local area. The work will inform a regional toolkit enabling communities and

agencies to identify local strengths, assets and capabilities and develop local community resilience plans. It will provide innovative and holistic methods to identify, nurture and harness resilience for the future.

If you require any further information on the Community Resilience Pilot, please contact: Anne Hardy, Corporate & Community Resilience Officer, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Anne.Hardy@midandeantrim.gov.uk or Anne Gallagher, Resilience Officer, Derry City and Strabane District Council, anne.gallagher@derrystrabane.com



Community Groups and Local Government officers taking part in Resilience workshops

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Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme (BTFAS)

Construction of the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme (BTFAS) commenced in July 2022 with work progressing well.

This vitally important project aims to reduce tidal flood risk to homes, businesses and communities in Belfast and mitigate the dangers posed by climate change.

Over 1500 properties are currently at risk of flooding from a 1 in 200-year tidal event. Predictions indicate that climate change and a rise in sea levels will increase this number to over 3900 by 2080 and over 7300 by 2117.

An extreme tidal event would put lives at risk, seriously damage property, disrupt the drainage/sewerage infrastructure and significantly affect the transportation network. Flooding of the city centre has the potential to cause major disruption for several days or weeks, with significant clean-up and recovery consequences.

The BTFAS extends from the industrial Harbour area of Belfast Lough along



the banks of the Lagan to Stranmillis Weir. The proposed defences are 8.5 kilometres long and approximately 1.1 metres high to include reinforced concrete walls, flood gates, glass flood walls, earthen embankments, and demountable defences.

The defences are designed to the predicted 2080 sea levels. It is anticipated that upon completion of the scheme the Department's existing deployment plans will be updated with the requirement for a significantly reduced emergency deployment to achieve a much higher standard of protection. To future-proof the scheme all permanent wall foundations are designed to allow the defences to be raised to the predicted 2117 level.

The defences are designed to aesthetically integrate with the surrounding landscapes and streetscapes and efforts have been

Flood wall at Ormeau

made throughout the development of the scheme to minimise the impact of the works on the local environment and wildlife as much as possible. The line of the defence was chosen to cause minimal environmental impacts by keeping the majority of construction on land and out of the river.



Flood wall under construction in Belfast Harbour

Areas where trees and shrubs have been removed to facilitate the works will be reinstated with similar species where possible, and where it is not possible to reinstate in the original location, compensatory planting will be undertaken in alternative areas. Trees are reinstated on a 1:3 ratio for replacement of any mature trees and the Department continues to work with landowners on where trees can be replanted.



Brick-clad reinforced concrete flood wall with bespoke railing to match original + Flood gate

The site comprises of five distinct flood cells: Belfast Harbour/City Centre, Sydenham/East Belfast, Ravenhill, Ormeau and Lockview/Stranmillis.

Works in the Lockview/Stranmillis area are substantially complete with the first two phases in Ormeau also complete and phase three well underway. Work is ongoing in Belfast Harbour Estate where 1700 metres of reinforced concrete flood wall and 330 metres of demountable barriers will



Brick-clad reinforced concrete flood wall with anti-climb coping

be erected. Design for the Sydenham/East Belfast and Ravenhill area is ongoing with the overall scheme completion estimated to be summer 2024.

Completion of the scheme will benefit the local community for many years to come. It will help to future proof this area against rising sea levels created by climate change and will help protect a thriving city where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.

The Design-and-Build Contract was awarded to Charles Brand. Consulting Engineers Atkins are the Project Manager on behalf of DfI.

Visit <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/belfast-tidal-fas> for further information on the scheme.

FSA Shares New Healthy Recipes Just in Time for Spring

According to the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) recent consumer insights tracker, in February 2023, 59% of participants reported feeling concerned about the healthiness of the food in their personal diet. This is significantly higher than the previous month (54%, January 2023).

With this in mind, the FSA have developed a collection of healthy meat, fish, and vegetarian recipes - created in conjunction with nutrition and traffic light labelling - to help you make more informed choices when planning your next meal. All the nutrients in each recipe per serving are green, which means they are low in fat, saturated fat, sugar, and salt.

Using the traffic light label is very helpful if you want to compare



Mediterranean Beef Pasta

the calorie, fat, sugar, and salt content of different food products or figure out how the amount of fat, saturates, sugars and salts within that product fits into your daily recommended diet. If you're struggling for some meal inspiration, why not give a few of these healthy recipes a try?

Mediterranean Beef Pasta: easy to make and nutritious, this take on a classic Mediterranean dish is packed full of nutritious vegetables with only 4g of fat per 100g serving.

Turkey and Pepper Stir Fry: turkey is a great choice for this quick and easy stir-fry, it is low in fat and set off by the sweet citrus tang of oranges.

Fish pie: a filling and comforting meal. Why not add some colour by mixing in some vegetables such as carrots or peas?

Carrot and orange soup: this is a classic flavour combination with zesty oranges and sweet carrots. It works perfectly as a starter or a light meal.

For the full list of recipes visit the FSA website: [Healthy Recipes | Food Standards Agency](#) or to find out more information on the traffic light labelling system visit: [Check the Label | Food Standards Agency](#)

Be "Coast Clever" this summer

Adebayo Akinfenwa, known as football's strongest man, communicates coastal dangers in HM Coastguard's Coast Clever safety campaign and highlights that even the strongest people cannot underestimate the coast.

HM Coastguard is called to around 36,000 incidents each year and a survey commissioned by HM Coastguard revealed that although 72% of people know that they should check tide times before they set out for a walk on the coast, only 33% claim that they do.



The campaign developed by HM Coastguard therefore communicates the hidden dangers of the coast, urging people not to take unnecessary risks and to be #CoastClever.

When going to the coast everyone should:

- Stay away from cliff edges and bases
- Check tide times before setting out
- Avoid mud
- In case of emergency at the coast call 999 and ask for Coastguard

For this wave of the campaign, the popular video previously created will be edited into three smaller, socially sharable clips that represent the themes of tidal cut-off, mud, and cliff dangers.

HM Coastguard will be launching part two of the campaign on 29 June 2023 and Coast Clever resources will be [available to download from here](#), with the new short clips being added ahead of the summer launch date so that partners and

organisations can help spread the safety messages.

For further information on HM Coastguard's Coast Clever campaign, visit hmcoastguard.uk/coast-clever

NI Water Completes Phase One – Sicily/Marguerite Park Flood Alleviation Project

NI Water recently announced the completion of phase one of a major Flood Alleviation Project to upgrade the sewerage infrastructure and substantially reduce the risk of out-of-sewer flooding in the Marguerite Park area of South Belfast.



(L-R) NI Water's Mark Sefton and Gareth Heron mark the arrival of the Tunnel Boring Machine in May 2021

Work on this major project commenced within the grounds of Musgrave Park in April 2021 and was completed ahead of schedule in January 2023. BSG Civil Engineering Ltd was appointed as the

main contractor for this phase, with Atkins providing Project Management services.

Mark Sefton, NI Water's Senior Project Manager said:

“The aim of this £8million project, which was funded through the Living With Water Programme (LWWP) which is led by the Department for Infrastructure, was to increase the capacity of the existing network, reducing the risk of out-of-sewer flooding and environmental pollution within the Marguerite Park area.

“The local community will benefit from the improvements for many years to come, and the completion of phase one will also pave the way for future work in the Sicily Park area.

“NI Water and our project team appreciate that work was disruptive in a busy residential area and would like to sincerely thank the local community and all our stakeholders for their patience and support throughout this essential scheme.”

Phase one involved laying a total of 1.3km new large diameter sewers, which were constructed from the “Grovelands” area of Musgrave Park, through the park grounds, Musgrave



Park Hospital, Malone College, crossing under the railway line and through private lands into Diamond Gardens/Marguerite Park and Donegall Park.

Eight hundred metres of the new sewers were constructed using underground micro-tunnelling techniques, which included crossing under the main Belfast to Dublin railway line. Tunnelling techniques significantly reduced disruption to customers, particularly within Musgrave Park/Musgrave Park Hospital and Malone College.

The final section of pipelaying was laid throughout Diamond Gardens, Marguerite Park and Donegall Park.

This £8million investment is an excellent example of what can be done when the necessary funding is in place.

The Living With Water Programme demonstrates how we can work together to deliver integrated sustainable solutions in Belfast that can address flood risk, enhance our environment and help our local economy to grow.

For further information on Living With Water, log on to:

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/living-water-programme

View the project video here:

<https://youtu.be/d0hAjrQtPQ>

COVID-19 Spring Booster Programme underway

The COVID-19 spring booster programme began in April. The spring booster vaccine will help to prolong protection already received from initial COVID vaccinations, ahead of any potential wave of COVID-19 over the summer months.

This year's spring booster has been offered to:

- Residents in a care home
- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

Dr Joanne McClean, Director of Public Health at the PHA (Public Health Agency), said: "COVID-19 is more serious in older people and in people with certain underlying health conditions, for these reasons they are being offered a spring booster of COVID-19 vaccine. I would urge everyone who falls into an eligible group to take up the offer of free vaccination when available."

You should be offered an appointment between April and June, with those at highest risk being called in first. You will

be invited to have your booster around six months from your last dose, but you can have it from three months.

The vaccines are being rolled out to eligible groups via GPs, community pharmacies and HSC Trusts.

Community pharmacies will be visiting care homes to vaccinate eligible residents. People 75+ who are eligible for vaccination should receive an invite in due course from their GP surgery or they could enquire if the vaccine is available via a community pharmacy. Immunosuppressed individuals over the age of 18 will receive their vaccination via GP's or community pharmacies and Trusts will vaccinate those immunosuppressed individuals aged 5 to under 18 years of age, as identified by their GP. Housebound patients will be identified by GP's and the Trust District Nursing teams will administer vaccinations.

Dr McClean continued: "The vaccination programme here has been a huge success with over four million doses delivered across the programme so far, it has saved lives, allowed us to live with COVID, and eased pressure on our health service. However, COVID hasn't gone away, and could potentially result in a real health threat, particularly for vulnerable members of our community. Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases as they teach

our immune system how to recognise and fight viruses.

"Therefore, PHA is urging everyone who falls into an eligible group to take up the offer of the spring booster as it will reduce the chance of you becoming severely unwell from COVID-19 this spring and summer."

For further information on the spring booster, see pha.site/springbooster or www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/get-covid-19-vaccination-northern-ireland

Further information

The spring booster will be offered to individuals aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system (immunosuppressed), as defined in [tables 3 or 4 in the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book](#).



Know, Check, Ask: 3 steps to keep you safe when taking medicines

At some point in our lives, most of us will take medication to prevent or treat illness. However, medicines can sometimes cause serious harm if taken incorrectly.

A new campaign within the Health and Social Care system in Northern Ireland aims to help increase awareness of the importance of using medication safely.

When you take your medicines, you should follow these steps:

- **KNOW** your medicine and keep an up-to-date list.
- **CHECK** that you are using your medicine in the right way.
- **ASK** your health care professional if you're not sure.

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Knowing your medicines is a good place to start. Make sure you know what each of your medicines are for, and how and when you take it. It is a good idea to keep a list of all your medicines (including prescription and over-the-counter medicines) by completing a 'My Medicines List'. You can use a leaflet which is available online or at your local pharmacy, or just keep your own list. This will help you know your medicines and it can help when you are discussing your medicines with a healthcare professional.

Checking your medicine is the next step. Always check the label before taking your medicine, to make sure it is the right one and how to take it. There will be instructions on the pharmacy label, package, or leaflet to help you.

Finally, asking questions and sharing your experience about your medicines is really important. Speak to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse to make sure you get the most from your medicines. If you are unsure what it is for, concerned about side effects, or want to make a change, ask your healthcare professional for advice. They can help to make sure your medicines are right for you and that any changes are made safely.

Everyone has a role to play to ensure safe and effective use of medicines so, let's remember to Know, Check, Ask.

For further information please visit <https://bit.ly/KCA-info>

Are you sure it's safe?

As our days get longer and brighter, we begin to see more activity around our Northern Ireland Electricity Network, whether it's DIY, harvesting or leisure activities.

To stay safe, you must always be aware of overhead lines, electricity poles and stay wires (attached to poles to provide stability).

Contractors, farmers, and DIY enthusiasts:

- Identify all overhead lines and remember to check entrances and exits for vehicles.
- NEVER raise the bed of a tipper lorry underneath an overhead power line or drive under the line with the body of the vehicle raised. Drivers should unload elsewhere and use an alternative vehicle such as a small dump truck.
- Take care when carrying ladders or using cherry pickers and stay at least five metres clear.
- If it rains or electrical tools you are using get wet stop using them and do not touch them.
- Remember spraying liquids, such as

power hosing or slurry, can result in the spraying devices becoming 'live' if jets come into contact with overhead lines.

- Contact NIE Networks well before work takes place in case it requires a temporary disconnection.

Leisure enthusiasts:

- Those partaking in aerial sports should navigate from a map that shows all overhead lines.
- Fish at least 30 metres away from all overhead lines (measure along the ground).
- Before sailing plan your route carefully when travelling and make sure you have adequate clearance. Many masts are made of aluminium which is an excellent conductor of electricity - make sure your mast stays at least five metres clear.
- Never let children fish, fly kites or drones in the vicinity of overhead lines.

Remember - electricity can jump gaps - Look up, Look out.

If an accident occurs contact NIE Networks immediately on 03457 643 643 so the area can be made safe, and repairs undertaken.



NIFRS New Learning and Development Centre – One year to opening...

A £50 million Northern Ireland Executive Flagship Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) training facility is currently under construction just outside Cookstown, County Tyrone.

Completion of the new site is on target for May 2024. The new training facility will help transform how NIFRS deliver training and improve the services that NIFRS provide to the community.

The site will provide extensive opportunities for NIFRS, emergency service partners and other agencies to train in realistic, but safe, environments. Main training areas include;

Firefighting – Range of structures available to reflect Domestic, Highrise, Commercial, Industrial and Marine type fire incidents. Live carbonaceous fires and gas fire props will provide realism.

Flooding – Bespoke Flood Water facility with reservoir and flood channel to allow replication of, and training in, a variety of flood water and rescue scenarios.



Training Warehouse

Road Network – Motorway, Dual Carriageway, A and B Roads, and rail level crossing will cater for multiple transport related incidents.

Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) – Various Confined Space, Collapsed Structure and Rope Rescue props will allow for various USAR based training scenarios.

Farm Awareness – Rural Farm Bungalow and Barn (with Slurry Pit) will accommodate farm related incidents including Animal Rescue procedures.

Fire Prevention – Numerous areas across the site will support an assortment of Community Engagement events and activities.

Interagency Training – A dedicated Incident Command suite and site-wide resources will facilitate multiple scenarios for JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles), resilience and civil contingency and interagency incident training including police, ambulance, air ambulance and voluntary agencies.



It is envisaged that the new facilities will be a hub and the destination of choice for collaborative inter-agency and multi-agency training.

Links below provide video graphics of the new site and construction progress to date;

Site flythrough: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lurIzFRbp9k>

Training Warehouse: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0_4UqfSkFg

Construction Progress - Latest Drone Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2C8gsiYkWZ4>

One year to go: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMrDmYom4xc>



Flood rescue training channel



Fire & Rescue Teams practice submerged vehicle rescue



Road Traffic Collision and Vehicle Training area

Atlantic Areas Floods project

The Atlantic Area Floods Project aims to reduce human and material damages due to flooding. This is by improving the tools of Prevention, Alert, and Crisis Management, at local levels, working with nine partners across five European countries.

On the 10th of March 2023, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the British Red Cross (BRC) jointly hosted a 2-hour hybrid information event for the Atlantic Areas Floods project. The venue was the Robert Emmet Theatre, Trinity College Campus in Dublin (Ireland), and the event was also broadcast live online.

The goal of the event was to spread the findings of the AA-Floods project work conducted by TCD & BRC and to encourage uptake of the learnings across national boundaries. Training and outreach communication included:

- Developing Strategies to Enhance Resilience
- Improving Coordination amongst Emergency Management Bodies
- Developing Enhanced Evacuation and Shelter Protocols
- Promoting the use of Real Time Information in Response Planning
- Improving Assistance Procedures

Attendees included representatives of emergency management organisations, local and national government, as well as civil society, across European countries.

A recording of the event is available via the project website, along with dissemination event materials for implementation at the operational level: <http://aafloods.eu/>

Further information on the AA-Floods project and transnational learnings, as well as materials, can be obtained from:

Ian Dodds - British Red Cross, Project Manager – EU Atlantic Areas Floods IDodds@redcross.org.uk

Professor Alan O'Connor - Trinity College Dublin, Head of School of Engineering, Chairholder and Professor of Structural Engineering OCONNOAJ@ted.ie



Presentation underway at the Information event

The launch and test of the new UK wide Emergency Alerts system

Hopefully, you all received or were aware of the launching and testing of the new UK wide Emergency Alerts system on the 23rd of April at 3:00pm.

This alerting system represents a new capability which will allow emergency responders and Government agencies to send emergency alerts containing life-saving actions for the public, to compatible mobile phones/devices in a defined geographical area, when there is a risk to life.

In the event of an emergency, the new system will provide a means to get urgent information to nearly 90% of mobile phones in the defined area. This area can be as small as an individual

electoral ward, up to complete UK-wide coverage. It has been developed in such a way that the Government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert and no data is collected – it is a broadcast only system.

This new system is not novel to the UK and has in fact already been used successfully for some time in several other countries (including the United States, New Zealand, and the Netherlands for numerous types of emergencies – earthquakes, tornados etc) where it has been shown to save lives. You may even have already received such an alert whilst on your holidays.

People who are vulnerable, or who care for them can opt-out of the Emergency Alert System by turning off the emergency alerts capability in the device settings. Guidance on how to do this for

specific types of mobile devices can be found at the [gov.uk/alerts website](https://www.gov.uk/alerts-website).

The system will be used very rarely, and alerts will only be sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives. It will not replace or override any alerting systems that already operate in Northern Ireland such as weather warnings. The system is UK Government owned and operated, and as such is the sole responsibility of the UK Government.

If you have any questions or are seeking further information about the Emergency Alerts system a detailed explanation of the system is available at [gov.uk/alerts website](https://www.gov.uk/alerts-website).

The Emergency Alerts system is now live and it will be used to warn people when lives are in danger.

Find out more at [gov.uk/alerts](https://www.gov.uk/alerts)



NI Water's Refillution campaign celebrates its 4th Birthday!

NI Water's campaign 'Join the Refillution' is celebrating its 4th anniversary of combatting single use plastic pollution and the impacts that different varieties of single-use plastics cause on our environment and marine life.

Since its launch, the campaign has been embraced by our local councils with some installing refill stations and encouraging hundreds of local businesses across their areas to support it.

Angela Halpenny, NI Water's Head of Environmental Regulation comments,

"We would like everyone to join NI Water's Refillution' campaign, to stop buying single use plastic bottles and instead refill a reusable bottle with tap water. The water industry has a strong

focus on the environment and NI Water is committed to tackling the problems caused by plastic bottles which block up our drains and pollute our rivers and seas. By switching to a reusable bottle, we can really make a positive contribution to help reduce plastic waste and protect nature."

Since the 'Join the Refillution' campaign was launched, our schools have shown great enthusiasm in supporting the fight against single use plastics. Thousands of primary and secondary school pupils have changed habits, taking NI Water's 'Plastic Promise Pledge' to; Always Refill from the tap; Always use a reusable bottle; and to Carry a reusable bottle with you.

To date, hundreds of primary and secondary schools have signed up to this initiative, promising to reduce the number of single use plastic water bottles and encourage all their pupils to refill a reusable bottle with tap water. The success of Refillution

has exceeded all expectations, with NI Water having distributed over 100,000 reusable water bottles to pupils across the country to help schools with their plastic free quest.

If you are a business and would like to support the Refillution campaign, contact your local council to register your interest. For more information, visit <https://www.niwater.com/refillution-map/>

Get involved and follow us on social media @JoinRefillution @niwnews.

For more details visit <https://www.niwater.com/refillution/>



Wat-er you doing to save energy?

With Water Saving Week just over and rising energy costs, there is no better time to dust off old habits and create some new ones that are good for your pocket and the environment.

NI Water are encouraging the public to cut back on shower times - not only to save energy, but also to save money!

Start by thinking how much water you are using each day. Whether you are washing your hands, cleaning endless amounts of dishes or getting through that mountain of washing, you start to realise just how important water is and the sheer amount we use.

If you want to 'Get Water Fit,' complete



our online water audit at <https://www.getwaterfit.co.uk> or take part in water saving challenges and receive your free water saving items including four-minute shower timer, toothy timers and swell gel bags for the garden.

Some water saving tips:

1. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth - A running tap can use six litres of water per minute.
2. Use a bowl for washing vegetables - Then you can reuse this water for plants.
3. Make full use of your washing machine - Half load programmes on washing machines use more than half the water and energy of a full load, so wait until the machine is full before switching it on.
4. Fix leaking taps - A dripping tap can waste more than 60 litres of water per week.
5. Keep a jug of water in the fridge, instead of letting the tap run cold.
6. Use a watering can instead of a hose - A hose uses over 500 litres of water an hour enough to fill 12 baths.

Advice heading into the Summer period 2023

We are now in the summer season during which we may occasionally experience periods of heavy showers and thunderstorms which could overwhelm drains and culverts, potentially resulting in flash flooding.

It is therefore important to remain vigilant and follow some of these simple steps to mitigate against or even prevent flooding.

1. Ensure that contact details in your household and community plan are up to date, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable and new residents etc.
2. Please be aware and monitor the weather and any warnings through TV/Radio/Apps. You can register on the Met Office website or download the Met Office app to receive weather warnings on <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/what/met-office-weather-app> and <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice>

3. If you notice blocked gullies, or ponding/drainage issues on the road contact DfI on (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/report-road-drainage-fault>), or; If you notice debris that may have been discarded along river banks which when rivers are swollen could be carried downstream potentially causing a blockage or impede river flows, please report this to your local DfI office: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/contacts/>

It is important to emphasise that during a period of severe weather, should the need arise, you should follow the normal procedure and call **Flooding Incident Line - 0300 2000 100** to report flooding.



Emergency Numbers

No matter how prepared we are for inclement weather, there's always the chance of an emergency at home. Here's a list of phone numbers you might find useful should the unforeseen happen:

Emergency Services:

999 or 112

Housing Executive:

03448 920 901

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks:

03457 643643

NI Gas Emergency Service:

0800 002 001

NI Water Waterline:

03457 440088

Flooding Incident Line:

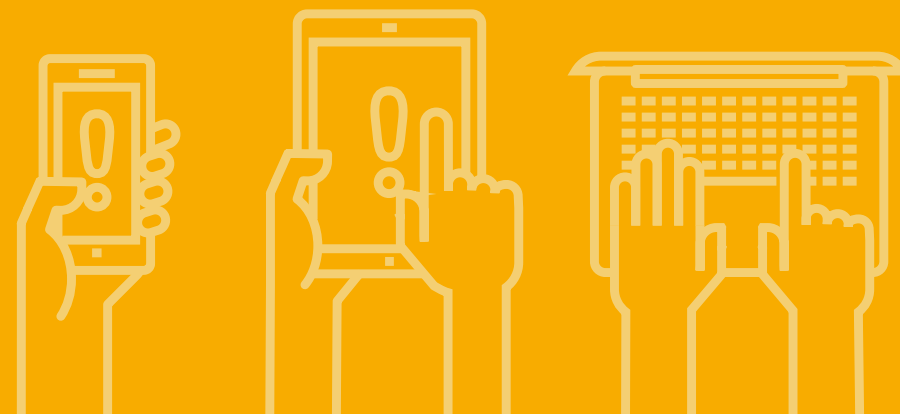
0300 2000 100

For advice and information on dealing with emergencies visit:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/be-ready-for-emergencies

Problems with Roads & Streets:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets





The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) Newsletter – Keeping members weather ready

The Regional Community Resilience Group Newsletter aims to keep its members up to date on getting weather ready.

The Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) was formed in 2013 to help local communities prepare for and respond to weather related emergencies.

The group brings together Multi-Agency Partner Organisations

from government, utilities and the voluntary sector to work for and with Communities at Risk of Severe Weather.

The RCRG aims to provide a forum to facilitate co-ordination, communication, partnership working and capacity building on community resilience issues. The group is currently working with over 40 communities across Northern Ireland ready to inform and resource them and improve preparedness and community resilience measures.

Unfortunately, severe weather events will continue to occur but through good communication, accessible, reliable information and established practical measures, communities can and have applied self-help measures to reduce impacts and protect property.

This newsletter will be used to highlight important developments to enhance community resilience, provide an opportunity for communities to share experiences to the benefit of others and highlight key responder contacts to help readers to **Get Weather Ready!**

Partner Organisations:

