



## WELCOME

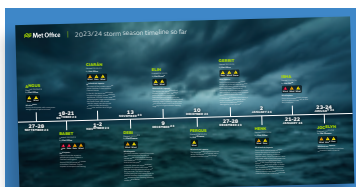
Welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of RCRG ezine

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

## Met Office - Stormy weather

There have been 11 named storms from September 2023 up to the end of June 2024, making it the joint most stormy period since 2015/16, when we first started naming storms.

By contrast, there were no named storms during the autumn and winter of 22/23, the only storms during this period, Antoni and Betty, occurred right at the end of the season in August 23.



Autumn / Winter storm timeline, with storm Kathleen also on April 6th - [Met Office Storm Centre](#)

The greater the temperature difference of the air either side of the jet stream the stronger it is. This difference is greatest in the winter. The position and shape of the jet stream influences the development, track and depth of low pressure systems.



[What is the jet stream? Met Office](#)

Storms are named by the Met Office's storm naming group, which includes Met Eireann and the Dutch Met Service, KNMI. Storms likely to cause 'medium' or 'high' impacts in Ireland, the UK or the Netherlands are named to raise awareness of severe weather and help people to prepare themselves so that impacts can be minimised.

### Why so many storms?

The stormy nature of this year's autumn and winter has been greatly influenced by the position and strength of the jet stream, which is a column of air high up in the atmosphere.

### What is the jet stream? - Met Office

The jet stream greatly influences the weather we experience and it's position this year has helped to deepen low pressure systems and steer them towards the UK and Ireland, eventually becoming named storms due to the strong winds and heavy rain they brought. In January, very cold air sunk southwards across North America and the temperature contrast there, intensified the jet stream influencing the development of Storms Isha and Jocelyn.

## Contents

Summer 2024

Page

- 1 Met Office - Stormy weather
- 2 NIE Networks escalation – Storms Isha and Jocelyn
- 3 Flooding Incident line (FIL)
- 3 Weather Advice for the Summer Period
- 4 Make every drop count this summer
- 4 NIFRS Summer Safety
- 5 PSNI - Helping you stay safe on our Waterways
- 5 Lucy Easthope looks at community resilience
- 6 Flood Re Unveils the Flood Resilient Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024
- 7 Council seminar highlights the importance of emergency preparedness
- 7 September is Preparedness month
- 8 Cross-Border Public Safety Survey Seeks Participants
- 8 BeFloodReady is live
- 9 Pedestrian Safety and Large Vehicles
- 9 Northern Ireland's Water Quality is Top Class
- 10 Andrew Law
- 10 Emergency Numbers
- 11 RCRG News – Keeping members weather ready

## What should I do?

Prepare to protect your property and people from injury. Check for loose items outside your home and plan how you could secure them. Items include bins, garden furniture, trampolines, tents, sheds and fences.

Windy weather can cause delays and make travel conditions dangerous. Follow these few simple steps to prepare before journeys. Check bus and train timetables, amending your



travel plans if necessary. If driving, check road conditions and ensure you have essentials in your car (warm clothing, food, water, a blanket, a torch, an in-car phone charger).

People cope better with power

cuts when they have prepared for them in advance. It's easy to do; consider gathering torches and batteries, a mobile phone power pack and other essential items.

If you are on the coast, stay safe during stormy weather by being aware of large waves, even from the shore large breaking waves can sweep you off your feet and out to sea. Take care if walking near cliffs; know your route and keep dogs on a lead. In an emergency, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

### What should I do statements? - Storm Isha

## National Severe Weather Warning Service – What Should I Do?

The Met Office provides impact-based warnings (Weather warnings guide - Met Office) up to seven days ahead for rain, thunderstorms, wind, snow, lightning, ice, extreme heat and fog.

As our weather warnings are based on the likelihood of impacts occurring because of severe weather, several factors have to be considered and these include time of

the year/week/day, location, ground conditions and local events taking place.

Each warning contains the following sections:

- **Headline** – a short weather headline, which states what type of weather is forecast.
- **What to expect** – details on the type of impacts forecast and an indication of how likely those impacts are.
- **Further details** – additional information on the forecast

weather, including the Impact matrix and new since Dec 2023, there are now advice statements, under the heading 'What should I do?' with links to advice and guidance from our partners on how to stay safe in severe weather. Above is an example of the advice given during storm Isha.

For further tips and advice to help people deal with severe weather and stay safe, [see Advice - Met Office](#)

[Be ready for emergencies | nidirect](#)

# NIE Networks escalation – Storms Isha and Jocelyn

## January 2024 saw the most serious wind events since 1998, with 80mph winds resulting in 1,100 faults and 53,000 customers losing electricity supply.



NIE Networks went into escalation mode before the arrival of Storm Isha and were still escalated when Storm Jocelyn hit around 48 hours later. Teams were mobilised for repairs and clear communication was issued around how to deal with power cuts, including encouraging sign ups to the Medical Customer Care Register for people who rely on electricity for healthcare needs.

While engineers worked to restore connections as quickly as possible, communications focused primarily on public safety. Increased use of video and photos highlighted the extent of the damage, and the key message was for the public to stay away from damaged electricity equipment and report it via NIE Network's [contact](#)

[centre](#). During the storms, call handlers processed around 30,000 calls.

To maximise awareness, NIE Networks issued frequent press releases, social media posts and facilitated broadcasting of interviews across all channels. People needed to know how long they could expect to wait for repairs and could be directed to useful resources like the [PowerCheck](#) facility. Community Assistance Centres were opened for those affected by power cuts and teams were on hand with advice, warm drinks and phone charging points.

Through Mutual Aid, an important part of the Emergency Response Plan, teams from GB travelled to NI after Storm Jocelyn and went to work at first light following an early morning safety briefing.

NIE Networks has previously supported other regions in emergencies and were grateful beneficiaries this time.

NIE Networks constantly aim for a safe and reliable supply, but severe weather can cause significant damage. It is important that people are prepared for power cuts particularly if they have critical healthcare needs. Sensible actions in preparation include locating your trip switch, stocking up on battery powered lights and ensuring medical equipment has a backup battery if possible. Contact your healthcare provider or NIE Networks Customer Helpline, 03457 643 643, if in any doubt.

# Flooding Incident Line (FIL) Contact 0300 2000 100

The response to any flooding incident in Northern Ireland is coordinated and dealt with by one of three Flood Response Agencies (FRAs). These are the Rivers Directorate, Transport and Road Asset Management (TRAM), and Northern Ireland Water (NIW).

NIDirect in partnership with Serco, provide a telephony service for the reporting of flooding incidents through the Flooding Incident Line (FIL) using the telephone number 0300 2000 100. The FIL is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. When reporting a flooding event to FIL, callers are connected to an agent who will log their incident and, based on the information provided, will pass their incident to the relevant FRA for appropriate action. The purpose of the FIL is to report flooding incidents only, with callers directed to contact the emergency services if they need rescue. Callers to FIL are given a unique reference number for their incident that they can track through the relevant FRA. Please be aware updates on logged incidents are not available from the FIL call handlers.

In 2023-24 the FIL received almost 11,000 calls, with considerable increases in call numbers experienced during named storm events and especially during the Autumn 2023 flooding across the South East of the province.

FIL is an important tool in the reporting of, and responding to, flooding events. In order to ensure it performs efficiently and effectively both for the caller and the FRAs, it is necessary to continually review its performance. This is an ongoing process between the FRAs and system managers who continually review performance, identify and implement areas for improvement as well as completing an annual stress test of the service.

For further information on flooding please click on this link: [Flooding in your area | nidirect](#)

The FIL service is not for emergencies. If there is a risk to life or someone is in danger callers are directed to telephone the emergency services on 999.



## Weather Advice for the summer period

As far as the weather goes, 2024 started off with a warm and wet spring – I'm sure you noticed! In fact, many places have already exceeded their average rainfall totals for the whole of spring.

Now we are in meteorological summer (June-August), there are plenty of things we can all do to prepare ahead of summer weather regardless of whether that means rain or sunshine.

That's where the Met Office's 'WeatherReady' campaign comes in. WeatherReady brings together expert advice from carefully selected partner organisations to help people prepare for and respond to the weather, so they not only stay safe, but are able to make the most of it.

2022's record-breaking heatwave means we all need to consider how we can keep ourselves, our



families, and neighbours safe and well when things hot up. Making sure we cover up – wearing hats and protecting our skin with sunscreen and/or loose-fitting clothing is advisable. A good tip for when it's really hot is to keep our homes cool by shutting curtains and – in extreme heat – windows.

It is just as important to keep an eye on the forecast and take action when heavy rain is coming. This could be simply checking gutters and drains are clear or preparing a flood kit to help you cope in the event of flooding to your home and business.

A wide range of advice articles can be found on the Met Office website: <https://bit.ly/40zf3nA>, including top tips and advice on flood preparedness in collaboration with partners around the UK.

[Find out more](#) about what you can do to get yourself ready for any type of weather or join the conversation on social media using #WeatherReady



# Make every drop count this summer

Summer has arrived and it's about to get hotter (hopefully)! While we all love to have fun in the sun, as the temperatures rise so too does the demand for water.

NI Water will be launching its Water Efficiency campaign over the summer months, demonstrating why saving water matters and offering practical everyday water-saving advice to change habits of a lifetime and help keep the water flowing for everyone.

Using a little less water can help save a lot. On hot days outdoor water makes up to half of our daily water usage with paddling pools, sprinklers and hoses adding to an overall increase in demand for water. If sunshine looks set to stay for a prolonged period, it's important we think about the simple things we can all do to stay cool and save a bit of water too.

- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth - A running tap can use 6 litres of water per minute. Over a month this wastes enough water to provide over 65 people with water for hand washing for a full day
- Use a bowl for washing vegetables - Then you can reuse this water for plants



- 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
- Fix leaking taps - A dripping tap can waste more than 60 litres of water per week
- Keep a jug of water in the fridge, instead of letting the tap run cold. Replace this water every 24 hours
- Use a watering can instead of a hose - A hose uses over 500 litres of water an hour, enough to full 12 baths

For information on staying safe in the sun visit <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/news/taking-care-sun>

NI Water is also encouraging customers to sign up to its free text alert service which keeps them updated about anything that may impact on their water supply or any of our other services in the area. Sign up here <https://www.niwater.com/register-for-keeping-you-informed/>

# NIFRS Summer Safety

The summer can mean spending more time outdoors. Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) is calling on us all to follow its simple safety advice to protect ourselves while enjoying the good weather.



## Barbecues:

- Keep away from fences and trees.
- Keep children and pets away from them.
- Make sure ashes are cold before disposal.

## Boat:

- Fit a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector.
- Make a fire action plan and ensure everyone on board is aware of



what to do if there is a fire.

- Fit a fire extinguisher in the engine compartment and the cockpit locker.

## Camping:

- Always cook outside and well away from your tent.
- Store flammable liquids or gas cylinders away from the tent.
- Never smoke inside a tent.

## Caravan:

- Make a fire escape plan.
- Fit a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector.
- Smoke outside.

## Water:

- If you see someone in difficulty in the water



- CALL for help, preferably a lifeguard if nearby. Alternatively ring 999.
- TELL them to float on their back
- THROW them something that floats

## Fires in the countryside:

- Do not throw cigarette ends on the ground or out of car windows.
- Avoid using open fires.
- Only use barbecues in a suitable area and never leave them unattended.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, call 999.
- If you see someone setting fires, report it to the PSNI.

NIFRS provides a free Home Fire Safety Check. If eligible, fire personnel will visit your house and will either fit a smoke alarm or show you how to test your existing smoke alarm, explain the potential fire risks in your home, and provide fire safety advice. For further information contact 02892 664221 or visit [www.nifrs.org](http://www.nifrs.org).

# PSNI - Helping you stay safe on our Waterways

**Enniskillen Police Station is lucky to have specially trained coxswains as part of its team. The station is located on an island town, surrounded by Lough Erne.**

The Lough has almost 80 square miles of waterways and over 200 islands with depths up to 300ft. The number of vessels registered on the Lough Erne system is nearly 15,000.

Station boats are accessible and ready for deployment 24 hours a

day. Coxswains deal with calls such as anti-social behaviour, criminal investigations, drug searches, firearms licencing checks and missing person searches.

Most Coxswains form part of the Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. They work in partnership with external agencies preventing crime and promoting water safety. The Neighbourhood officers often work in association with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute holding free lifejacket clinics. Educational work around water safety is aimed at safer boating using buoyancy aids and lifejackets. They also work with schools and youth groups to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour, or 'Jetty Jumping' as this is sometimes



**A flare disposal day organised by the Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland and supported by the PSNI saw 4011 flares handed in by members of the public and boating community. The risk of keeping old marine distress flares is that these may not work effectively when you need them most in an emergency or could misfire causing injury.**



referred to. This is of paramount importance due to the risks associated with drinking alcohol close to the water.

Coxswains are always on hand to offer anyone on the water advice on how to keep themselves safe including the following tips:

- Always wear a Personal Flotation Device or Lifejacket.
- Download the SafeTrx app to keep loved ones informed of where you are and gain quick access to emergency services.
- Complete a radio course and learn how to use it to call for help.
- Hone your skills by taking training courses from approved centres.
- Always carry a charged mobile phone in a waterproof case.

# Lucy Easthope looks at community resilience

**Lucy Easthope is one of the UK's leading experts on disaster recovery and has extensive experience working worldwide in the aftermath of some of the most devastating disasters.**



**Lucy Easthope**

In her book "When the Dust Settles" (2022) Lucy shares her personal story and her life learning on the things that matter to people and communities after major incidents. In her recent book, now a Sunday Times Bestseller, Lucy stresses the importance of humanity, hope and even humour that must be present to reassure and sustain people in the darkest days. We were lucky enough to get to speak to Lucy and get her perspective on Community Resilience.

Lucy's interest in disaster recovery was sparked as a young child after the Hillsborough disaster, she was at school with kids who had been at the game and the ripple effect in their

Merseyside community was massive- at the time she felt angry and activated. After leaving school Lucy studied law and then an MSc in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management. She started her career in disaster recovery working in the aftermath of 9/11. Lucy has also advised on major aircraft crashes, the Bali bomb, the UN bomb and the Grenfell Tower Fire. Working in mortuaries after fatal incidents she understands the importance of finding and



restoring all personal effects to the people and families who have lost loved ones.

Lucy recommends that all those responding after emergencies must allow the community to lead planning in recovery – as they are best placed to understand people’s needs and issues in the days and weeks after a major emergency. Lucy also believes that children need to be better incorporated into planning. Refreshingly Lucy believes that it’s not always about money to help people to recover and to be better prepared for the future – for example first aid courses can sometimes be just as empowering.

Asked about challenges currently facing communities Lucy talked about the cost-of-living crisis, climate change, trusted information sources and the problems with resourcing the NHS.

She recommends a community led co-ordinated response after a flooding or other major incident and that communities and responders together should consider the following steps:

- Develop a plan that allows those affected to find and keep as many personal items as possible from their life before the emergency.
- Develop community hubs and one stop shops.
- Reassure people that the emotions they experience after an unexpected and traumatic event are normal.
- Reassure people that there is help for them and help direct them to support services that meet their needs.
- Remember to include people who may be missed in recovery strategies - children (particularly infants), LGBTQ people, older people, people with additional physical needs and those with learning disabilities, migrants, the homeless and transient communities.

For more information Lucy Easthope can be contacted at [www.whatevernnext.info](http://www.whatevernnext.info) and tweets regularly [@Lucygobag](https://twitter.com/Lucygobag).

# Flood Re Unveils the Flood Resilient Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024

**Last month, at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Flood Re, in collaboration with Dr. Ed Barsley and Naomi Slade, unveiled the pioneering Flood Resilient Garden.**



Flood Re, a joint initiative between the government and the insurance industry, created this exhibit to showcase how small changes and nifty features in our gardens can improve the flood resilience of UK homes. The Flood Resilient Garden highlights innovative water management techniques and plants that thrive in wet conditions.

Weather expert Laura Tobin launched the garden and discussed its role in mitigating flood risks, reflecting her passion for weather and outdoor enjoyment.

The garden was purposely flooded to demonstrate its adaptability to changing water levels, providing visitors with a live demonstration of flood resilience.

The Flood Resilient Garden incorporates sustainable drainage systems, flood-tolerant plants, and water management techniques, working together to prevent waterlogging and reduce flood damage to homes and gardens.



Laura Tobin visiting the Flood Resilient Garden at Chelsea Flower Show 2024

Andy Bord, CEO of Flood Re, stated, “There has never been a more important time to elevate the discussion on flood risk and the valuable role our gardens can play in mitigating these risks.”

Flooding can devastate homes, causing emotional distress and high costs. Flood Re’s Build Back Better programme offers up to £10,000 for Property

Flood Resilience measures during repairs, making homes better prepared for future floods - <https://www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter/>.

# Council seminar highlights the importance of emergency preparedness

## Recently Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council played host to a well-attended seminar aimed at community groups and businesses involved in event management and organisation.

Held at The Lodge Hotel, the event welcomed speakers from the Northern Emergency Preparedness Group, representatives from the Council's events and licensing teams, alongside blue light responders, such as the PSNI, Ambulance Service and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

The Be Prepared event focussed on raising awareness for emergency

preparedness, with the goal of fostering a better understanding of how multi-agency roles can collaborate to ensure event safety.

Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Councillor Steven Callaghan highlighted the importance of community events saying: "This event organised by Council's emergency planning team in collaboration with civil contingencies was an excellent opportunity for key stakeholders to strategise and collaborate on plans in the event of an emergency.

"From smaller events such as Halloween and Christmas, to the large-scale events like the Ould Lammas Fair, the NI International Airshow, or the NW200, the Borough has quite a varied selection for visitors and residents alike. Being

prepared for events of various scales takes a lot of forward planning."

Speaking after the event, District Commander for Causeway Coast and Glens, Superintendent Mark Roberts said: "The Be Prepared Event was a great opportunity to meet and get to know many of our local partners who put on a wide range of events across the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

"Working together in partnership is critical for successful event management and delivery, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to take part in the presentations and exercise, to demonstrate what can be achieved."

Seminars like these are vital to equip event organisers with the knowledge and resources needed to manage emergencies and prioritise public safety during events.

## September is Preparedness month

September is Preparedness Month  
X f i g #30days30waysUK



Be Prepared Not Scared  
boost your personal resilience

## Follow along @ #BeReadyNI and #30days30waysUK

Since 2015, #30days30waysUK 'September is Preparedness Month' aims to boost personal and collective resilience and preparedness. Over 30 days in September, all-hazard themed messages and resources spanning situational awareness, preparedness, safety, health, and resilience are shared over social media reaching wide audiences. The content is taken from existing public awareness campaigns or can be created anew with dissemination via social media. The approach uses positive psychology and humour, to engage and inspire the public to "get equipped, make a plan and be informed."

The Northern Ireland Emergency Preparedness Group (NIEPG) has taken part in this campaign for several years. We mirror #30days30waysUK campaign with the #BeReadyNI and we choose themes and topics that suit the NI context. Last year thanks to our lead partners we took part in 19 out of 30 days.

Our lead partners include NI Direct, Met Office, Department for Infrastructure (DfI), Education Authority (EA), Public Health Agency (PHA), Police Service of Northern

Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), NIE Networks and local councils.

Some of the important themes covered were What Emergency, Severe Weather, Wildfire, Power Cut, Flood Aware, Water Safety, Winter Driving, and the importance of Volunteering and Hidden Heroes. In order to reach as wide an audience as possible the information was cascaded to over 50 stakeholders across statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations comprising of central and local government, first responders, utilities, health, education, transport, community outreach and humanitarian assistance.

The NIEPG looks forward to working with partners to make the 2024 campaign even more successful than last year and to help build stronger more resilient communities at a local level. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Belfast City Council in particular who act as lead influencer for the #BeReadyNI campaign. Please play your part by liking and sharing posts throughout September.



Multi-agency partners who presented at the Be Prepared event.



Some event organisers who participated at the event.

# Cross-Border Public Safety Survey Seeks Participants

Residents of eleven border counties are being called upon to participate in an online survey aimed at enhancing “public safety messaging” in the border counties.

Conducted by Dublin City University (DCU) as part of the All-Island Disaster Risk Reduction programme, the initiative seeks to gather insights to inform emergency management policy across the island of Ireland.

The survey, being conducted by the “Communicating for Impact: Public Safety Messaging for Border Communities” (C4I) project at DCU Business School, aims to identify effective practices in public safety communication. The C4I project team, under the leadership of Professor Caroline McMullan, will analyse participants’ perspectives on the consistency of messaging, highlight any challenges stemming from inconsistencies, and outline the potential benefits of coordinated messaging.

## All Island Disaster Risk Reduction

With help from public input, the C4I team will propose evidence-based recommendations to bolster safety messaging in the border region. Community members will play a vital role in shaping improved communication strategies for enhancing public safety.

Effective public safety messaging is critical to ensuring that individuals and communities are adequately prepared and informed in the face of emergencies. Clear, consistent, and timely communication can empower people to take appropriate actions to protect themselves and others, ultimately saving lives and minimizing the impact of adverse events.

The survey, which guarantees anonymity, targets individuals living in counties Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Londonderry, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo, and Tyrone. It is designed to be concise, taking approximately 10 minutes to complete. [Further details](#)



An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence

[and the questionnaire are available at this link.](#)

Participants are encouraged to contribute their perspectives, thereby playing a pivotal role in shaping more effective and consistent public safety messaging across our border communities.

Please contact Professor McMullan ([caroline.mcmullan@dcu.ie](mailto:caroline.mcmullan@dcu.ie)) if you have any questions or require assistance to complete the questionnaire.

This research is funded by the Department of Defence under the All Island Disaster Risk Reduction programme and is undertaken as part of the “Communicating for Impact: Public Safety Messaging for Border Communities” (C4I) project at DCU Business School.

## BeFloodReady is live

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) are a partner with the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) in supporting the Community of Practice on Property Flood Resilience (PFR).

PFR is an important part of managing flood risk which includes measures that help improve flood resilience to properties and by helping reduce the damage and disruption caused by flooding.

Flooding doesn't just damage buildings but also has far-reaching consequences for people and entire communities. This platform provides professionals and the public with access to case studies, guidance and information to support improved flood resilience both before and after a flood.

We are delighted to advise that CIWEM's BeFloodReady initiative, which includes the Community of Practice for PFR, is now LIVE. You can explore these case studies, practical guides and best practices on their website or by subscribing to their newsletter at - [befloodready.ciwem.org](https://www.befloodready.ciwem.org)

#PFR #FloodResilience #BeFloodReady  
#CommunityofPractice





# Pedestrian Safety and Large Vehicles

**Officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Road Policing Unit are urging all pedestrians to be aware of their personal road safety especially when crossing roads, being mindful of increased risk around larger vehicles.**

Figures reveal in the last two years there have been 11 pedestrian fatalities in Northern Ireland involving heavy goods vehicles, nine of which involved pedestrians over 65 years of age.

Inspector Cherith Adair explains: "These are most concerning figures, and we would urge all pedestrians, especially older pedestrians and children, to pay particular attention when crossing roads and to be cautious regarding heavier goods vehicles"

Always remember - the driver of a lorry or heavy goods vehicle is positioned much higher than in a normal vehicle - so they do not see pedestrians as easily as other road users.

Don't ever take chances when crossing nor expect heavy goods vehicles to always see you and stop, they are much heavier and subsequently take longer to come to a complete stop.

Always use pedestrian crossings and make absolutely certain all vehicles have completely stopped before stepping onto the road, even if the green man is flashing.

When walking on country roads, keep close to the side of the road on the right-hand side so you can see oncoming traffic. Walk in single file and always wear a high visibility vest or brightly coloured clothing to ensure you are visible.

We would encourage the community to reiterate this message to parents and friends, particularly as the weather improves and people are enjoying walking in towns and the countryside.

# Northern Ireland's Water Quality is Top Class

**NI Water's latest campaign focusing on the Quality of Water, is being rolled out across Northern Ireland to highlight the significant, often unseen role our scientists and water quality experts play in ensuring the water it provides meets strict quality standards all year round.**

Recently NI Water opened its doors to a number of water treatment works to host a variety of visitors to showcase how we value our water and the role it plays in Northern Ireland. Water Treatment Works that opened their doors to visitors included Dorisland, Loughmacorry, Killylane, Lough Fea, Fofanny and Killyhevlin. Visitors were given a tour of the Works and learned about the journey of our water from source to tap. NI Water staff explained the processes used to keep Northern Ireland's water clean and safe in an ever changing and challenging environment.

Gary Presho, NI Water's Water Supply Area Manager East, said: "NI Water's top priority is high quality drinking water. Your water is checked 1,287 times every single day from

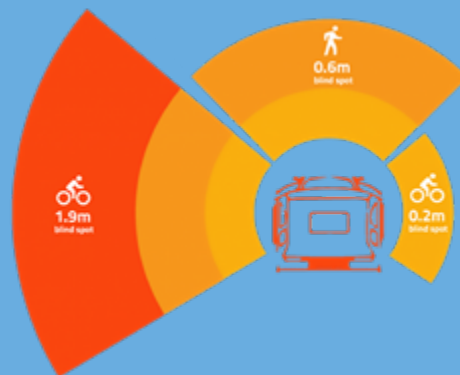
water treatment works right to your tap. Our expert scientists are always checking that we meet strict quality standards and that's why our tap water is world class.

"We were delighted to be able to facilitate live demonstrations and tours hosted by our expert treatment technicians and scientists, who manage the daily operations at our treatment plants and test and check our water daily. The hands-on event was also an opportunity for the public to understand how their water is treated and tested before it is supplied to their taps at home, while getting involved in some key experiments with our scientific team."



**Visitors learning about the water treatment process.**

## CAN THEY SEE YOU? BE AWARE OF BLIND SPOTS ON LARGE VEHICLES



# Andrew Law

**It is with great respect and a heavy heart that we remember Andy Law, a valued member of the Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) who passed away in February.**



Andy Law

In the late 1990's, Andy became Northern Ireland Water's first ever Emergency Planner. His initial focus was preparing for Y2K and the Millennium Bug. However, over the years, Andy's commitment extended beyond theoretical planning. He actively participated in exercising, training, and emergency preparedness. His hands-on involvement allowed him to understand the intricacies of response and recovery. Whether it was coordinating resources, communicating with stakeholders, or providing guidance during crises, Andy was unwavering in his dedication, at the end of the phone no matter what happened and his involvement in multi-agency co-ordination was second to none.

Andy was a founding member of the RCRG in 2013 and he was committed to working with government departments and councils to advocate a more people-centred approach when dealing with flooding and challenging incidents. He was a knowledgeable and conscientious colleague who always responded in an empathetic, considerate, practical, and competent manner. Dedicated to making a positive impact on the communities he served.

In recent years Andy's meticulous approach to reviewing articles for this multi-agency e-zine "Be Weather Ready" demonstrated his commitment to clear communication and accessibility. He ensured that articles were written in plain English and thoughtfully laid out making critical information more digestible and actionable to our wide audience.

Outside work, Andy had a real passion for dogs and the outdoor life. Andy always kept Irish Setters and would be seen many a weekend trudging through the Antrim Hills, in whatever weather, with the dogs in tow. He enjoyed competing and judging at many dog trials both here and across the water and was very well respected and regarded in that community.

Andy will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by friends and colleagues. Our thoughts are very much with Andy's wife Lynda, his stepdaughters Nicola & Gillian, his grandchildren, and his wider family circle.

## 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**

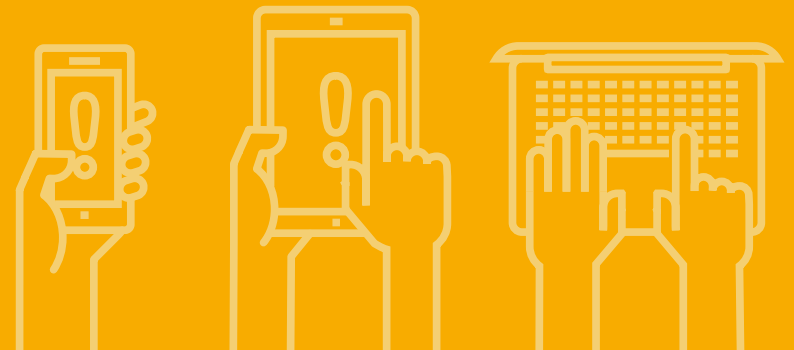
NI Gas Emergency Service:  
**0800 002 001**

NI Water Waterline:  
**03457 440088**

Flooding Incident Line:  
**0300 2000 100**

For advice and information on dealing with emergencies visit:  
**[www.nidirect.gov.uk/emergencies](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/emergencies)**

Problems with Roads & Streets:  
**[www.nidirect.gov.uk/problems-roads-streets](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/problems-roads-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:



Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service



Met Office



British Red Cross



Ministry  
of Defence



HM Coastguard