



# Volunteers Newsletter

Newsletter Issue: June 2023

Dear Volunteer,

It is my pleasure to introduce this newsletter. Nationally resilience and emergency planning has never been more visible. In December 2022, the UK Government published the National Resilience Strategy. It is based on three core principles, one of these is that “Resilience is a ‘whole of society’ endeavour.” This is never as evident as when volunteers respond to emergencies within their communities.

Within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland volunteers have been used on a number of occasions. Within Leicester City volunteers were deployed to support Emergency Centres on two separate occasions. Flood Wardens continue to provide a local perspective on the risk of flooding and during an incident our Resilience Officers rely on the local context to support decision making.

Within the Local Resilience Forum, a Community Resilience Coordinator has been appointed. Their priority is to work with community and voluntary organisations to identify opportunities to work with and support residents to enhance community resilience.

I hope that this newsletter provides you will an overview of the work that is ongoing and the outlines the opportunities to support the communities within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

On behalf of the team and all agencies within LLR,

Thank You!

Andrew Murr

**LLR Prepared & Resilience Partnership Manager**

## Martyn's Law

On Monday 19 December, the Government announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.

Martyn's Law will keep people safe, enhancing our national security and reducing the risk to the public from terrorism by the protection of public venues. It will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

The legislation will ensure parties are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clearer processes.

Counter Terrorism Police, East Midlands will be delivering free training to some front line council departments in the near future to ensure, as an authority staff are trained in hostile reconnaissance (looking out for signs of someone planning an attack) and what to do if an attack happens (Run, Hide, Tell).



There are lots of free training for people to keep them safe from any potential attack within their communities, the ACT awareness online training is an excellent source of information and guidance for everyone [click here](#)

## Hot Weather Impacts

The UK experiences occasional heatwaves but of a lesser frequency and intensity to those seen elsewhere globally.

On 19 July 2022 for the first time on record, temperatures in the UK exceeded 40°C. 3,300 excess deaths were recorded due to the extreme temperatures, the Emergency Services declared a major incident due to the strains on their services. Many road and rail infrastructure and services were severely affected or suspended and the Government issued several warnings and advice for people to stay safe.

Whilst many of us like to enjoy the sunshine and hot weather, we should make sure we do it safely and remember certain groups of people are more vulnerable than others to heat or ultraviolet radiation. Hot weather places a strain on the heart and lungs. For that reason, most of the serious illness and deaths caused by heat are respiratory and cardiovascular. Older people, those with pre-existing health conditions and young children are particularly at risk. Overexposure to the sun is equally dangerous, with effects ranging from mild sunburn to skin cancer. It doesn't have to be hot for the UV index to be high.

The Met Office are predicting similar weather conditions this year. For more information and advice [click here](#). A new Heat Health alert system has been created by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in partnership with the Met Office. This will run from 1<sup>st</sup> Jun to 15<sup>th</sup> September. You can register for this [here](#).

The LLR Prepared team are hosting **Summer Risks: Are we Hot Weather Ready?** Webinar on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The aim of the session will be to demonstrate how our Communities can be more resilient by raising awareness of seasonal risks and potential incidents. There will be three guest speakers:

- **Group Manager Chris Parsons – Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service –** Extreme Hot weather: The risk of Wildfires and water safety.
- **Alex Cameron/Philip Thompson - Flood Risk Engineers, Leicester City Council –** “Understanding the types of Flood Risk, Why flooding occurs, historical context, what has been done so far....”

- **Mike Sandys – Director of Public Health for Leicestershire and Rutland**  
Personal Well-being - How to stay well during extreme hot weather, avoidable hospital admissions followed by Q&As

You can join **Summer Risks: Are we Hot Weather Ready Webinar** [here](#). If you have any queries or special requirements, please get in touch with [communityengagement@leics.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@leics.gov.uk). The session will be recorded so if you would like to request a recording of the webinar please do not hesitate to get in touch using the community engagement email address.

## Emergency Response Volunteers

The Resilience Partnership are currently developing a new training package for emergency response volunteers. This is an extension of the current role of emergency centre volunteers to be able to support other departments with any emergency incident response. This will be delivered by the Resilience team, Flood Risk team, Trading Standards and Business Support. The work of emergency response volunteers will be vital during an incident, and this has been proven in many incidents we have responded to. These have included the Ukraine support desk at East Midlands Airport in 2022 which was staffed by volunteers, support to Trading Standards with avian influenza and staffing emergency centres when residents within local communities were displaced.

Further details will be emailed to you when the dates and venues have been finalised. If you are interested in becoming an emergency response volunteer, please email [llrprepared@leics.gov.uk](mailto:llrprepared@leics.gov.uk)

## Flooding and Flood Wardens

Fortunately, we have not had any major storms or flooding in the last year in LLR. Leicestershire Highways control room however still had 272 flooding events. Their top enquiry subjects included 165 reports of gullies blocked, 74 drainage/flooding highway reports and 48 reports of fallen trees/forestry.

Flood wardens have a direct line to the Highways control room. Please remember the following:

- ✓ Only call Highways Control Room if a road needs closing (impassable due to floodwater) or flood warning signs placing (usually when one lane of the road is flooded)
- ✓ Any other issues like blocked gullies should be reported online <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem>
- ✓ Other Highway Emergency issues should be called through to Customer Services on 0116 3050001
- ✓ Please inform Highways Control Room if you are placing out your own signs and ensure any signs are weighted down with sandbags and are not placed where they obscure visibility for other road users
- ✓ If you have your own signs, then please mark them on the back of the signs so that the Highways Teams do not collect them inadvertently

- ✓ Any photos of flood/signage which you have placed yourself would be really useful for Highways and can be emailed to [opscontrol@leics.gov.uk](mailto:opscontrol@leics.gov.uk)
- ✓ Known flood sites are monitored regularly (usually daily) and Highways will remove flood signs as necessary, so there is no need to call the Control Room when signs need removing

Leicestershire County Council's 10 week public consultation for the Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is now live, closing on Sunday 13th August. The documents and survey are available [here](#). Leicestershire County Council's Flooding Team would welcome any further review and comments.



We will be hosting a **Flood Warden Engagement event** on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of September from 11am to 3pm at Leicestershire County Council, County Hall. Various LLR partners will be attending with a variety of talks and stalls. Please can you let us know of any dietary requirement when you register as we will be providing lunch for this event. To book a place please register [here](#).

## Training Opportunities and Events

**Emergency Centre** – Virtual, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 14:00 – 16:00 hrs. Book [here](#).

**Flood Warden Engagement Event** – County Hall, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 11:00 – 15:00 hrs  
Register [here](#)

**Summer Risks: Are we Hot Weather Ready?** – Virtual, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 19:00 – 21:00 hrs

**Skills to Support Survivors, Families and Friends Affected by a Major Incident** –  
Dates and venues tbc. Please email [llrprepared@leics.gov.uk](mailto:llrprepared@leics.gov.uk) to express your interest.

## Contact Details/Change in Circumstances

If your contact details change or you are no longer able to carry out your duties as an Emergency Centre volunteer or flood warden please remember to notify the Resilience partnership team via:

**0116 305 6101**

[llrprepared@leics.gov.uk](mailto:llrprepared@leics.gov.uk)

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