

**Helping Somerset plan, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies.**

**Welcome** to the first edition of the

Somerset Prepared newsletter from the local authorities Civil Contingencies Unit.

Four times a year we will be bringing you the latest news, advice and support to help keep your local emergency preparedness arrangements up to date and your communities prepared.

Over the coming weeks we'll be launching new tools, tips and resources to help you develop and maintain local emergency arrangements with full details coming in the next exciting edition! If there are any particular topics or issues you've encountered and would like us to cover in the next edition, let us know using the details below.

Until then you can follow us on twitter [@SomersetPrepare](https://twitter.com/SomersetPrepare) for the latest updates.

From all at the Civil Contingencies Unit, wishing you a safe and merry Christmas.

## Somerset Emergency Community Contacts

A Somerset Emergency Community Contact (SECC) is a person nominated by the local parish council as a known point of contact for emergency responders in the event of an incident. The initiative is run by the Civil Contingencies Unit and provides communities with a reliable channel for information in and out of a community.

We would like to say a big thank you to the 97 Parish Councils that have already nominated their emergency community contacts and encourage others to join them in the scheme. To find out more get in touch using the details below.



## Community Resilience

Building resilience in your community by harnessing local resources and expertise helps to be better prepared for emergencies in a way that complements the emergency services response.

To help you achieve this, the Community Resilience in Somerset Partnership (CRiSP) is on hand to provide advice, guidance and support in building an informed, prepared and more resilient community.

To find out more about what you can do and the help available, visit [www.communityresiliencesomerset.org.uk/](http://www.communityresiliencesomerset.org.uk/).



As the Christmas break approaches its worth taking a moment to reflect on the winter so far, we've had both low temperatures with potential impacts on vulnerable groups and heavy disruption on the roads due to Storm Angus.

With plenty of winter still to go it's not too late to check and update any local arrangements in your community.

### Top tips!

- Check your local emergency plan, if you'd like any advice or guidance get in touch using the details below
- Review local resources for any equipment that may need refreshing or replacing
- Get in touch with any local volunteers you have and make sure their contact details are up to date
- Sign up to our Somerset Emergency Community Contact initiative featured in the previous article

For more winter preparedness advice, visit [www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/get-ready-for-winter)