

January Newsletter



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Admin

1. As we move into the season where there could be severe weather, here's a reminder of the levels of preparation for members. Note that sometimes call-outs go direct to stage (c):

- Alert – forewarning via email of a potential call-out. Charge batteries and prepare Go Bag. Request who can potentially attend. No need to modify personal activities
- Standby – Use of Longbow Messenger App to flag to all. Those that can attend modify activities to be able to respond quickly
- Call-out – Base Officer follows call-out process. See Training section of this Newsletter for more info.

2. Following successful testing we would like all members to migrate to the use of MS Teams for video calls, and once all in place to take advantage of its other features, such as our key documents. Look out for an email on how to do this

3. In case you've missed the December RAYNET news article, you can get 5% discount with Moonraker for a spend of greater than £75

4. Please can you advise your Area Controller if you are isolating due to COVID-19. This information is held for use by the Base Officer in calling out members.

5. As mentioned in item 1, we are keeping a watching brief on Flood Warnings. Here is Wickford on the 14th January



Engineering

1. Following the overhaul of our APRS beacons, they have been taken out and tested. Some fine tuning of settings was necessary but they are now fully functioning and ready for deployment



Rover Rescue - Current Status **STAND BY**

2. We have been asked by the Essex EPO team how we can support Essex Rover Rescue (RR) during lockdown. This has been twofold: do any of our member have 4*4 capabilities, and how to give them wide area radio coverage. We are collaborating with RR to offer advice on equipment and how we might be able to assist.

3. Migrating all members to ZelloWork is reaching its conclusion with only six members to go – you know who you are, so please see the email reminder sent this week.

4. A number of 'How To...' videos are being produced to give guidance on Crossband Radio Operation. Keep a watch out for an email soon.

Essex EPO

1. There continues to be close liaison with the Essex County Emergency Planning Team. We are getting daily EU Exit reports on the status of traffic through ports across Essex. We get weekly COVID-19 reports, and this week received targeted East of England severe weather warnings on likelihood and potential impact

Training

1. A very successful first training session on the new call-out process was run by Jenny on the 11th January. I would strongly encourage all members that did not attend to book in for a repeat session on the 22nd January – this is our key operating procedure and the briefing clearly puts the stages in context so that it is clear what you have to do, and what others are doing.

2. The 'Introduction to Essex RAYNET' training module was delivered this month to new and prospective members.