

SPRING 2017

KENT FLOOD WARDEN NEWSLETTER

Building Resilient Communities

New Flood Warden training

A new Flood Warden training package has been launched this Spring. Aimed at providing succinct guidance on flooding, flood warden roles, responsibilities and safety, this package is great for refreshing existing wardens or training new wardens, including those that have recently moved into your community. To book a dedicated session for your area, please contact the Kent Resilience Team or the Environment Agency (details below).



Let's get you trained!



Supporting you, supporting your community

We are thinking of holding a practical, demonstration based, interactive event for Flood

Wardens later in the year. Topics could include demonstrations on:

- how to fill sand bags quickly and easily and build an effective wall

Updated handbook now available



The Flood Warden Handbook has been updated to match our new training package. This will be available to download from the Kent Prepared website in the future but if you want a copy sooner, please email us.



Newly trained and ready to go!

Lesley Spence, one of 15 newly trained Flood Wardens for Shoreham village, says, "It was a great day, delivered at a time and place to suit us".

She added, "With so much comprehensive information presented, we all feel ready to

- how to use temporary flood defences
- where flood water enters a property
- property level resilience
- how to recruit new flood wardens and use the local press to best effect etc.

However, we're keen to get your views first!

Please do take 2 minutes (yes really!) to tick yes or no next to our ideas when you get the email from us via SurveyMonkey and make any suggestions of your own so we can host an event that's what you really want.



Summer flash floods

In June of last year multiple thunderstorms led to surface water floods in many locations across Kent

with people and properties affected.

Remember flooding doesn't just happen in winter so be prepared - have your Community Flood Plans and Emergency Flood Kits handy and take a few minutes to look back through your Flood Warden Handbook.

Is your Community Flood Plan up to date?

A resilient community has active Flood Wardens and a robust Community Flood Plan at the heart of it.

- Have you tested your plan recently?
- Are your contacts listed in it up to date?
- Did you know that we are available to help you refresh and test your flood plan?

Please contact Kent Resilience Team on 01622 212409 or your local Environment Agency office on 03708 506 506 if you need our help.

Environment Agency's Flood Warning System



take the next steps of completing our community plan and testing it".

Lesley's full case study for Shoreham will be available on the Kent Prepared website soon.



And there's more...

A further 14 Flood Wardens from the Tonbridge, Hildenborough and Paddock Wood areas have been trained recently too and issued with their new emergency back packs and a further 6 wardens used the training as a refresher course.



New community leaflet

The Environment Agency have a new leaflet for residents in flood risk areas explaining what you can do to prepare, what to do when you get a flood warning and actions to stop flood water coming into your home.

The Environment Agency has upgraded its system to issue Flood Alerts and Warnings. It's now more user friendly and has a number of new features. You will continue to receive Alerts/Warnings as before but you may wish to login and to see the new features or check your contact details are up to date. Remember, you can receive alerts and warnings for a specific area(s) or properties in your community even if you live in a different area. This may be really useful in your role as a Flood Warden.

As part of the new system some Quick Dial numbers have changed. This is the number you can enter after calling Floodline to quickly access up to date flood information for your area. Please use the Quick Dial number quoted at the end of your Flood Alert or Flood Warning as and when they are issued. Alternatively a list of the new codes can be found at the back of the new Flood Warden Handbook or email the Environment Agency (address below) for a copy.

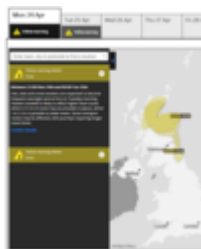
If you would like to register for this free Flood Warning Service visit www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



Met Office Changes

Have you downloaded the new Met Office App? The new App allows you to monitor where the rain is falling and where it is forecast to fall. You can also keep an eye on any weather warnings that may affect your area with notifications sent to you so that you never miss them. As well as the

rainfall radar and warnings you can get a 7-day forecast and even a video forecast for the next 24 hours. Why not take a look?



You may also have noted some changes to the warnings pages on the Met Office website. Over the next few months the way warnings are displayed and communicated will change. These changes have already started but there is more to come. Have a look at www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings.

Kent Prepared Website

The Kent Prepared website has been launched but is undergoing continuous development and we will shortly be adding a page for flooding to share information, keep



It can be personalised for your community so please contact the Environment Agency if you'd like one.

Do you know someone who could be a Flood Warden?

Should you know anyone who would like to become a Flood Warden, please get them to register their interests by sending an email to krf@kent.fire-uk.org or phone 01622 212409.

Are your contact details up to date?

If your contact details have changed please let us know. Or if you want to retire from your Flood Warden duties, please let us know and return your Flood Kit to us in due course.

Future newsletters

Do you have a story of your own you'd be happy to share - we'd love to hear it!

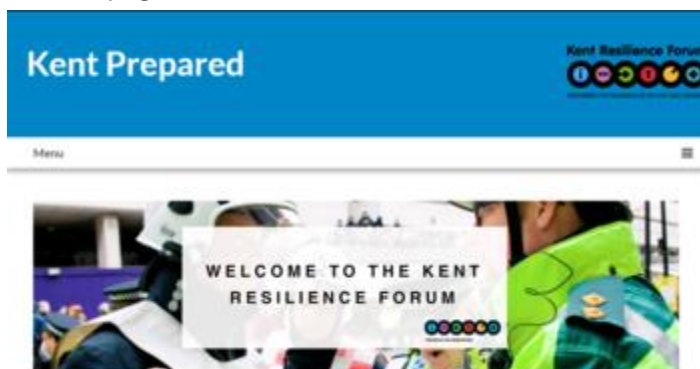
Should you have any articles, photos, information to be included in a future newsletter, please contact us at krf@kent.fire-uk.org

Environment Agency

As a Flood Warden the summer months can be a good time to **help your community to be prepared** for flooding.

Encourage the residents in your area to:

you up to date and highlight your good work. Look out for the new page soon!



* Check their flood risk online [Check My Risk](#)

* Sign up for free Flood Warnings [Sign Up](#)

* Prepare a simple flood plan [Make a Flood Plan](#)

Flood Wardens can **check their registration for Flood Warnings** by calling the Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.

Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings

Over the last 9 months (Jul 2016 – Apr 2017) the Environment Agency have issued **46 Flood Alerts** and **1 Flood Warning** in Kent in response to heavy rain and high tides.

