

# How does the Environment Agency manage flood risk?

Managing flood risk has never been so important. Here we outline how the Environment Agency approaches it.

Climate change will see global temperatures rise, leading to more intense and erratic rainfall. We can't prevent flooding entirely but we can reduce the risks by being prepared. By working with communities and other agencies, such as local councils and emergency responders, we can share our resources and knowledge to better protect your families and property.

*"Sharing our knowledge and resources helps us to better protect your families and property"*



## Monitoring flood risk

The Environment Agency monitor rainfall, river levels and sea conditions 24 hours a day and use this information to forecast the possibility of flooding. By working with the Flood Forecasting Centre at the Met Office, we are able to combine expertise to forecast for river, coastal and groundwater flooding.

Predicting surface water flooding, which is where rainfall cannot drain away quickly enough, is more difficult so get to know your local flooding hotspots and keep an eye on the weather.



## How do we manage flood risk?

- Advise on building development on flood plains
- Build and maintain river and coastal flood defences
- Monitor river and sea levels 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year
- Work with communities to improve their resilience

## What can you do?

- Visit [gov.uk/know-your-risk](http://gov.uk/know-your-risk) to check if you are at risk and sign up for flood warnings
- Prepare a flood plan for your property
- Investigate property flood protection
- Consider volunteering to be a flood warden – we will train you
- Have a flood kit of essential items at home
- Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) to check river levels, live flood map and weather warnings



## Flood fact

1 in 6 homes in the UK is at risk of flooding – is yours one of them?



## Our emergency response

When heavy rainfall is predicted, the Environment Agency opens its dedicated 24 hour Incident Rooms, where teams of experts monitor river and sea levels and issue flood warnings to communities. These give you and your community advance warning of

*"Flood warnings give communities advance warning of potential flooding and vital time to prepare"*

when flooding is likely to happen and importantly, vital time to prepare.

Our teams work around the clock to clear debris from waterways to reduce the risk of flooding, and operate flood gates and other flood defences to protect communities.

We also work closely with the Police, Fire and Rescue, local councils and other emergency responders to protect communities and help people whose property has been flooded to get back on their feet.

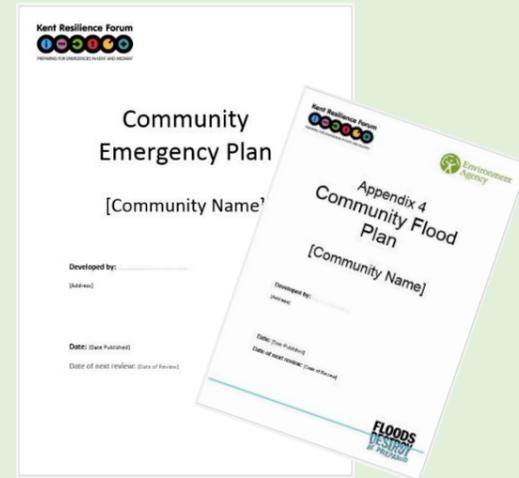


## Flood fact

The average insurance claim for flooding is in the region of £50,000

## How can we help you?

- We can survey areas to identify if flood defences or property level protection would reduce the risk of flooding
- We can help you develop a personal flood action plan and one for your community too that will help protect and support them
- We can help you implement those plans during a flood to reduce the risk and impact of flooding
- You can call our dedicated Floodline on 0345 988 1188 at any time during an incident for up-to-date information for your area
- Keep an eye on our website and social media to find out the latest information.



## Flood Warning Codes

 <b>FLOOD ALERT</b>	 <b>FLOOD WARNING</b>	 <b>SEVERE FLOOD WARNING</b>	<b>Warning no longer in force</b>
<b>Flooding is possible. Be prepared.</b>	<b>Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.</b>	<b>Severe flooding. Danger to life.</b>	<b>No further flooding is currently expected for your area.</b>

Visit [www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency) for more information