

Testing your community flood plan

Coastal flooding scenario



Kent Resilience Forum



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN KENT AND MEDWAY

Purpose of this exercise

Aim

- » To **practice** using your community flood plan, and to identify necessary improvements

What will we do?

- » Decide on the actions to be taken **before, during and after** a flood
- » Identify how to **make your flood plan better**



Guidelines

- » Table top exercise
- » 4 scenarios covering before, during and after the flood
- » 5-10 minutes discussion on each scenario
- » Record your answers on paper or a flip chart

Scenario 1 – before the flood

- » There has been high rainfall over England and Wales.
- » High tides have combined with high onshore winds producing lots of spray and minor overtopping.
- » The rainfall has continued over England and Wales.
- » Tides are high, sea conditions are rough and the winds are increasing.
- » Rough seas and high winds have caused overtopping that has led to some localised flooding.
- » The Environment Agency have issued Flood Alerts along the coast in response to the deteriorating weather conditions and are advising communities to stay vigilant.



Last week

Yesterday

Now

Key questions – before the flood

- » What actions would you take given the possibility of flooding?
- » Where could you get further information?
- » Who is the flood plan co-ordinator?
- » If this were happening today, how many of your volunteers are available?



Suggested answers

- » What initial actions would you take given the possibility of flooding?
 - » Review the community flood plan
 - » Contact other Flood Wardens to inform them of the developing situation
 - » Communicate risk of flooding to the community via door knocking, social media etc
 - » Go and look at the other watercourses and report any blockages
 - » Continue to monitor the weather
 - » Confirm the availability of resources
- » Where could you get further information?
 - » Gov.uk/environment-agency website for river levels, live flood maps, 5 day forecast
 - » Environment Agency Floodline 0345 988 1188
 - » Met Office website - http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk_forecast_warnings.html
 - » Local and national media
- » Who is the flood plan co-ordinator?
 - » Insert name of flood plan co-ordinator
- » If this were happening today, how many of your volunteers are available?
 - » The group should review the list of volunteers to establish who is available

Scenario 2 – before the flood

- » The weather has continued to deteriorate.
- » The previous high tide combined with high winds has caused some spray and overtopping but no further properties were flooded.
- » From looking at the water level against the height of the defences it was clear that should the situation get worse, significant overtopping will occur.
- » Local radio stations are reporting that the emergency services are starting to receive an increasing number of calls.
- » Interviews with Environment Agency officials indicate that they are closely monitoring the situation and they are doing everything they can to reinforce coastal flood defences.
- » A flood warning has been issued for your area.
- » The next high tide is in 3 hours.



Previous high tide



Last 6 hours



FLOOD WARNING

FLOODING IS EXPECTED. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED.

Now

Key questions – before the flood

- » On a map, identify the places that are at risk of flooding in your community and how you would expect the water to flow. Which areas would you expect to flood first?
- » What will the flood plan co-ordinator do on receipt of a flood warning?
- » What will the flood wardens & volunteers do once notified?
- » What is the Floodline quick dial code for the area?

Suggested answers

- » On a map, identify the places that are at risk of flooding in your community and how you would expect the water to flow. Which areas would you expect to flood first?
 - » Groups sketch flows onto large blank sheet
 - » Highlight areas at risk
 - » May use flood plan as guidance
- » What will the flood plan co-ordinator do on receipt of a flood warning?
 - » Be aware of the current situation (monitoring the media, call Floodline, look at Met Office website etc)
 - » Contact cascade of flood wardens or volunteers and advise on actions to prepare for flooding
 - » Talk to the Local Authority, Environment Agency etc – seek information and provide updates
 - » Update the flood wardens if the situation changes
- » What will the flood wardens and volunteers do once notified?
 - » Act on advice received from the flood plan co-ordinator or their assistant
 - » Put flood protection measures in place
 - » Help and advise vulnerable people and help move them to safety early if required
 - » Inform the community of the situation and advise them to prepare by moving cars, putting sandbags or floorboards in place etc via social media, phone or email
 - » Collect data/photos on impacts observed, when and where
- » What is the Floodline quick dial code for the area?
 - » Insert Floodline quick dial code

Scenario 3 – during the flood

- » The high tide combined with a surge caused by the low pressure system has overtopped flood defences.
- » There are reports of a breach in the flood defences.
- » Conditions on the sea front are extremely dangerous and water is spreading through your community.
- » A flood volunteer has noticed that local infrastructure has flooded (delete from list below as appropriate):
 - » Electricity sub station
 - » Water treatment works
 - » Water pumping station
 - » Post office
 - » Doctors surgery
 - » Local roads
- » A radio broadcast is saying that the Police are advising evacuation immediately if safe to do so.
- » The Local Authority have produced a list of rest centres.
- » The Environment Agency have just issued a Severe Flood Warning.



**SEVERE FLOOD
WARNING**

SEVERE FLOODING. DANGER TO LIFE.

Last 2 hours

Last hour

Now

Key questions – during the flood

- » What could be the impact of this event on your community?
- » What resources will help? Do you have them?
- » Who do you talk to?



Suggested answers

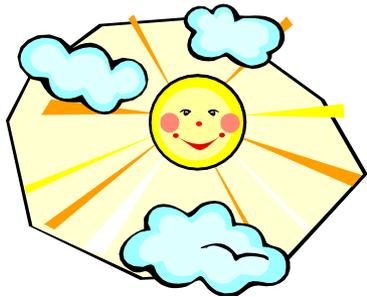
- » What could be the impact of this event on your community?
 - » Damage to property & infrastructure
 - » List of roads affected, expected road closures, properties flooded, loss of water/power etc
 - » A number of residents may require temporary accommodation

- » What resources will help? Do you have them?
 - » Groups should list the likely resources required & compare these against those listed in the flood plan
 - » Eg Sandbags, pumps, 4 x 4, grab bags, diversion signs, community centre to meet etc
 - » Identify any shortfalls

- » Who do you talk to?
 - » Refer to the communications listed in the flood plan
 - » Local Authority – may be able to provide sandbags, EA – update on flooding situation/forecast, Fire & Rescue – pumps etc
 - » Identify any shortfalls

Scenario 4 – after the flood

- » The media are now reporting that the flood water has either been pumped or has drained away naturally.
- » All flood warnings have been removed.
- » No further dangerous high tides are expected.
- » Your home has been flooded.
- » You have lost a family pet.
- » The entire ground floor is covered in debris and the walls are soaked through.
- » A number of personal possessions have been destroyed.
- » The community has been badly affected.
- » Roads have been damaged and are covered in debris.
- » Inspection hole covers are missing.
- » Homes and local businesses have been flooded.
- » A new family moved to the village last week and were unaware of the flood risk.
- » They did not have home insurance.
- » They are distraught and are seeking advice.



After the flood

In your house

In your street

In your community

Key questions – after the flood

- » What will you do now?
- » How will the community help the new family?
- » What support would you expect from local organisations?

Suggested answers

» What will you do now?

- » Check on neighbours, seek help from those less affected
- » Seek advice from the National Flood Forum
- » Find out if it is safe to return to your property
- » Ring your insurance company as soon as possible
- » Take photographs

» How will the community help the new family?

- » Help the family get back in their home
- » Share knowledge with professional organisations
- » Provide a list of local businesses that may be useful

» What support would you expect from local organisations?

- » Citizens Advice Bureau – provide free information and advice
- » Environment Agency – provide advice on waste disposal
- » Faith groups – help the rehabilitation of the community
- » NHS – co-ordinate the primary care, community and mental health role during the recovery stage
- » Insurance industry – guidance on insurance claims
- » Local Authorities – deal with highways issues, provide accommodation, work with utilities suppliers
- » Voluntary sector – provide support regarding medical treatment, welfare, transport etc

Debrief

- » What did you find difficult today in responding to the flood?
- » What did you find easy today in responding to the flood?
- » “If I were to improve the flood plan I would....”

