



Testing your community flood plan

River flooding scenario

Purpose of this exercise

Aim

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

What will we do?

- » Discuss **why** we need to plan for flooding
- » List **who does what** during a flood
- » Decide on the actions to be taken **before, during and after** a flood
- » Identify how to **make your flood plan better**

Format of the exercise

- Planning for flooding 20 minutes
- Scenarios 1 and 2 – Before the flood 50 minutes
- Scenario 3 – During the flood 30 minutes
- Scenario 4 – After the flood 30 minutes

Community flood plan theory

Why do we need to plan for flooding?

- » Working together as a community will improve your response to a flood. It can:
 - » Improve **communications** before, during and after a flood.
 - » Clarify **who should be doing what**, so actions aren't completed twice.
 - » Share **local knowledge** with professional organisations.
 - » Encourage the involvement of **volunteers**.
 - » Help the community to **prepare** for flooding.

Types of flooding

- » Tidal
- » Fluvial
- » Surface water
- » Groundwater
- » Sewage
- » Potable supply



Health and safety – reduce the risk to life

- » The health and safety of volunteers is important – **at no time should a volunteer be asked to put themselves at risk.**
- » Remember, certain groups of people may require **extra assistance** during a flood, such as the elderly or the infirm, or children.

Flood warnings

- » The Environment Agency issues flood warnings for specific areas. These are:



FLOOD ALERT

FLOODING IS POSSIBLE. BE PREPARED.



FLOOD WARNING

FLOODING IS EXPECTED. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED.






**SEVERE FLOOD
WARNING**

SEVERE FLOODING. DANGER TO LIFE.

- » Visit www.gov.uk/environment-agency
- » Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**

Flood warnings

	Key Message	Timing	Actions	Channels
Awareness Raising	Be aware. Keep an eye on the weather situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily forecasts of flooding on our website Communications with the media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the forecast on our website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Media
 FLOOD ALERT	Flooding is possible. Be prepared.	2 hours to 2 days in advance of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared for flooding. Prepare a flood kit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWD Floodline Internet
 FLOOD WARNING	Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.	Half an hour to 1 day in advance of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act now to protect your property. Block doors with flood boards or sandbags and cover airbricks and other ventilation holes. Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Keep a flood kit ready. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWD Floodline Internet Sirens Loudhailers Media
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	Severe flooding. Danger to life.	When flooding poses a significant threat to life and different actions are required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. Co-operate with the emergency services and call 999 if you are in immediate danger. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWD Floodline Internet Sirens Loudhailers Media
Warning Removed	No further flooding is currently expected for your area.	Issued when a flood warning is no longer in force.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood water may still be around and could be contaminated. If you've been flooded, ring your buildings and contents insurance company as soon as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWD Floodline Internet

Who does what during a flood?

» Environment Agency

- » Issue flood warnings
- » Receive and recording information on flooding
- » Advise other organisations
- » Deal with blockages on main rivers
- » Pollution

» Councils

- » Co-ordinate emergency arrangements
- » Roads
- » Flood warning message
- » Sandbags may be provided
- » Clear blocked drains and small watercourses

Emergency services

- » Police have an overall co-ordination role
- » Fire and Rescue Service
 - » Rescue those in need
 - » Provide assistance
 - » Provide equipment

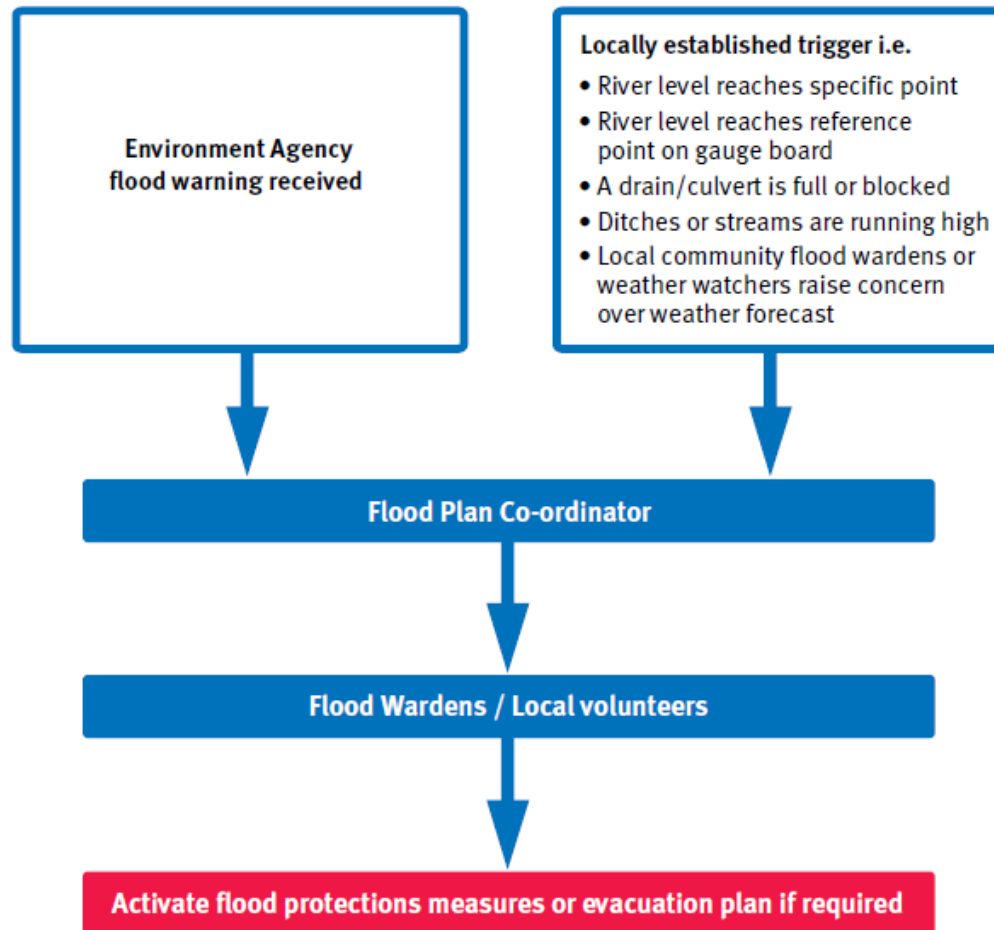
Utility companies

- » Attend to emergencies relating to their service at properties where there is risk to life
- » Protect own premises
- » Attend to emergencies at their own serviced installations

Everyone

- » **Move** to a safe area if you are at risk
- » **Prevent** water from entering your property if possible
- » Switch off **electricity and gas** supplies at the mains
- » Move **valuable possessions** above areas likely to flood

Cascade of information



Community flood plan exercise

River flooding scenario

Guidelines

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

Scenario 1 – before the flood

- » Over the past few weeks there has been persistent and at times heavy rain over the Darent catchment.
- » This rainfall has resulted in rising river levels on the Darent.



Previous weeks

- » The rainfall has continued over England and Wales, particularly in the Kent area, with some heavy rain in places.
- » River levels are continuing to respond.
- » The rain is running straight off the saturated ground.



Previous week

- » Flood alerts have been issued by the Environment Agency, including for your area
- » The bad weather is being reported on local and national news.



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

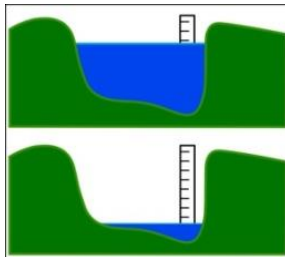
- » What initial actions would you take given the possibility of flooding?
 - » Review the community flood plan
 - » Contact other Flood Wardens to inform them of the developing situation
 - » Communicate risk of flooding to the community via door knocking, social media etc
 - » Go and look at the other watercourses and report any blockages
 - » Continue to monitor the weather
 - » Confirm the availability of resources eg sandbags, rest centres
- » 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 and forecasts are indicating that the worst is to come.
- » The Met Office have issued another heavy rainfall warning.
- » The River Darent is out of banks and flooding low-lying land and roads in places.

- » Local radio stations are reporting that the emergency services are starting to receive an increasing number of calls.
- » There are reports that local roads are now affected, including Church Street and Boakes Meadow.

- A flood warning has been issued for the River Darent from Otford to Darent
- » Heavy rainfall is forecast to continue for the next 6 hours.



Last 6 hours



Last 2 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 River has burst its banks and is now starting to flood properties
- » The depth and flows of water are fairly low at the moment.



Last 3 hours

- » A flood warden has noticed that the road is now impassable but cars are still attempting to drive through.
- » A large tree has fallen in the river and has wedged across the river collecting further debris and causing water to back up.
- » The Fire Station has begun to flood to a low level



Last hour

- » Floodline is saying that river levels are going to be the highest on record, reaching the maximum level within the next 2 hours.
- » A radio broadcast is saying that the Police are advising evacuation immediately.
- » The Local Authority have produced a list of rest centres.
- » The Environment Agency have just issued a Severe Flood



**SEVERE FLOOD
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SEVERE FLOODING. DANGER TO LIFE.

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

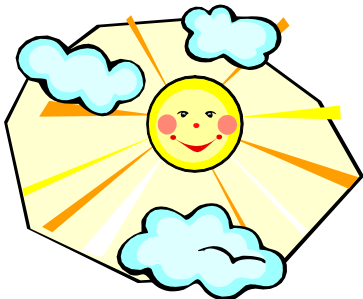
- » What could be the impact of this event on your community?
 - » Damage to property & infrastructure
 - » List of roads affected, expected road closures, properties flooded, loss of water/power etc
 - » A number of residents may require temporary accommodation

- » 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 water levels have subsided.
- » All flood warnings have been removed.
- » No further rainfall is 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.



AM, 2 days after



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 for you and others to return to your properties
- » 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

Aims

To get each participant to:

- » Reflect on their role in the community flood plan
 - » Assess the effectiveness of the community flood plan
 - » Identify areas for improvement
-
- » In your group, 15 minutes discussion around 3 key questions
-
- » 10 minutes feedback from the groups...

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....”

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What will we do?

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