

Be prepared for flooding

A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES

1 in 22 homes and 1 in 13 non-residential properties are at risk of flooding in Scotland.

Organisations are working closer than ever before to manage flooding and reduce its impacts. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland have been working together to help your community stay safe by sharing advice and providing tools to improve community resilience. Remember **you** are the first line of defence against flooding. By being prepared and knowing what to do if a flood happens, you can limit the damage and disruption of flooding on your life.

BE AWARE

We can all be affected by flooding. Even if your area hasn't flooded before, you don't live near a river or you stay in a flat above ground level, you could still experience:



- Blocked roads.
- Disrupted or cancelled transport services.
- Closures of schools and community facilities.
- Utilities being shut off.
- Difficulties reaching family and friends who rely on you.

Check if your area is at risk of flooding by visiting: <http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm>
The maps show if your community could be affected by flooding and the potential impacts.



BE PREPARED

There are simple steps you can take now that will help you prepare and limit the impacts of flooding:



- Visit www.floodlinescotland.org.uk for information, helpful advice and "how to" guides.
- Sign up to receive free advance notice of flooding at floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup
- Make a flood plan so everyone knows what to do if flooding is predicted.
- Put a family flood kit together.
- Know how to shut off power and water supplies to your property.
- Keep a list of useful contact numbers.
- Check your home and motor insurance policies provide adequate cover for flood damage.

The Floodline website is a one stop shop for flooding advice. As well as useful information on how to reduce the impacts of flooding on your home and business, you'll find resources like travel updates and live flooding information to help you plan if flooding is forecast.

BE RESILIENT

When flooding happens, water, silt, mud and debris can get into your property. You can reduce the damage by:



- Installing flood protection products e.g. airbrick covers or flood barriers. This could help to reduce overall damage and the amount of silt and mud that enters your property.
- Knowing how to fit flood protection products correctly - this could give you more time to move your possessions away from flood water.
- Considering how to make your property more flood resilient when carrying out home improvements. The Scottish Flood Forum (www.scottishfloodforum.org) has useful suggestions about this.

- Visiting the Ready Scotland website (www.readyscotland.org) which has information about community resilience and how your neighbourhood can be better prepared for flooding.

BE SAFE

- Always put your safety first and don't take unnecessary risks.
- Call emergency services if you are concerned about your own safety or the safety of others and act immediately on any advice provided.
- Avoid contact with flood water as it may be contaminated with sewage and other pollutants.
- Do not walk, drive or swim through floodwater – there may be hazards below the surface you cannot see.
- Don't walk on sea defences, riverbanks or bridges.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

Floodline offers practical information about the health effects of flooding and safe ways to clean up after a flood. Remember, flooding can impact on your mental and physical wellbeing and can affect anyone of any age.

KNOW WHO TO CONTACT

Different organisations have specific roles to play in flood management.

Visit Floodline and find out who to contact in the event of a flood and keep this information handy. Use this space to write down important phone numbers and contact details.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watches are groups of volunteers who join together to make their communities safer. They do this in different ways and are often very proactive in their approach.



If you want to be a part of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area, enter your postcode on www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/localarea to see if a scheme already exists near you. If there is no scheme, we can provide advice and guidance to help you start one. You can register a new watch online on our website. The first step is to see if your neighbours are interested in taking part. Schemes can be large or small, rural or urban. You can manage your scheme to benefit the needs of your community. Neighbourhood Watches are community led and supported by other partners.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERTS

Alongside a number of partners, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland offers you the opportunity to get tailored safety information delivered to you by text phone and email. Just go to www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk click 'join' and fill out a few simple questions on the sort of information you want to receive.

☎ 01786 463 732
www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk



Neighbourhood
Watch SCOTLAND

Floodline

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

0345 988 1188
floodlinescotland.org.uk