

## READY FOR FLOODING

Flooding can happen suddenly and with little warning. 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
- School and community facility closures
- Utilities being shut off
- Difficulties reaching family and friends who rely on you

## LAND AND PROPERTY OWNERS

Legally, land and property owners are responsible for their own assets and are expected to take reasonable measures to safeguard and insure themselves against all hazards including flooding.

If you own land or property in areas that are prone to flooding, you should also make sure any actions you take do not increase the risk of flooding to other land or properties.

Land or property owners can be held liable if they cause flooding to a nearby property by dumping materials or introducing any other obstruction that alters the flow of a watercourse.

If you own land or property next to a river, you may have a responsibility to maintain that section of the watercourse.

This could include sections of the watercourse, floodplains or banks, depending on what details of the watercourse are held in your Title Deeds.

## WHAT IS FIFE COUNCIL DOING TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK?

- We investigate the causes of flooding, provide advice and carry out appropriate measures to reduce the risk of reoccurrence
- From time to time we assess and maintain relevant watercourses as specified under Sections 18 and 59 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
- We may be able to supply sandbags if you are at immediate risk of flooding. When demand is high, we will prioritise properties considered greatest risk. You can buy (empty) sandbags at most DIY stores
- We employ out-of-hours staff to help local people particularly those who are vulnerable, and support emergency responders to lessen the impact of severe flooding
- We monitor weather conditions and raise awareness of flood risk, automatically alerting out-of-hours staff and key groups to rising water levels

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK?

When flooding happens, water, silt, mud and debris can get into your property - you can limit the damage and disruption if you are prepared and know what to do.

## BE PREPARED

- Check with SEPA to see if your area is at risk of flooding: [map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm)
- Sign up for alerts from SEPA which give advance notice of flooding: [floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup](http://floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodingsignup)
- Put family kit together and make a flood plan so everyone knows what to do if flooding is predicted.
- Know how to shut off power, gas and water supplies to your property.
- Keep a list of useful contact numbers and check that your home and motor insurance policies provide adequate cover for flood damage.
- Consider how to make your property more flood resilient when carrying out home improvements.
- Install flood protection products such as airbrick covers or flood barriers and know how to fit them correctly – this could give you more time to move your possessions away from flood water.



# WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

## IN THE EVENT OF FLOODING



If you are at immediate risk of flooding contact us on **03451 55 00 11**, option 4 (Roads and Transportation), **03451 55 00 99** (to report out-of-hours emergencies)

If there is evidence of sewage, please call the Scottish Water emergency line on **08000 77 87 78**

Telephone lines to the emergency services and Fife Council will be extremely busy during a flooding emergency. Only phone them if you really need to.

- If water is coming into your property... use a bucket to collect the water and contain it as much as possible with towels
- If your whole street is under water and every property is affected... contact the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Contact us on **03451 55 00 99** and we may be able to arrange sandbags which you can collect from council depots, however, limited supplies mean we can't guarantee to respond to all requests.
- If your ceiling is bulging with water... try piercing a small hole in the bubble to release the water until a more permanent repair can be carried out. Remember to place a bucket or basin underneath the hole to collect the water
- If water is coming through a light fitting... leave it alone and call an electrician to isolate the electricity to the light
- If drains are overflowing in your street... call Fife Council on **03451 55 00 99** or report it to us at [www.fife.gov.uk/roadfaults](http://www.fife.gov.uk/roadfaults)

## SAFETY



- Always consider 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
- Don't 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 during extreme weather or during flood events
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires

## KNOW WHO TO CONTACT



Organisations are working closer than ever before to manage flooding and reduce its impacts.

You can find more advice on flooding and who to contact at [www.fife.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.fife.gov.uk/flooding)

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A guide to managing the risk of flooding in your area, protecting your home and who to contact in an emergency



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