Three steps to safety

Prepare

- Be aware and know the signs. Signs to watch for:
    - Heavy rain or severe weather reports
    - Rising water levels with churning dark water
    - A build up of debris in rivers or streams
- Plan where to go if you get caught in a flash flood



Act

- Do not walk or drive through flood water
- If you are in a building with at least two storeys and you believe it is safer to stay where you are, you should move to a higher storey
- Call 999 if there's a risk to life, or if you're trapped

Survive

- Call 999 if you're in immediate danger
- Follow advice from the emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

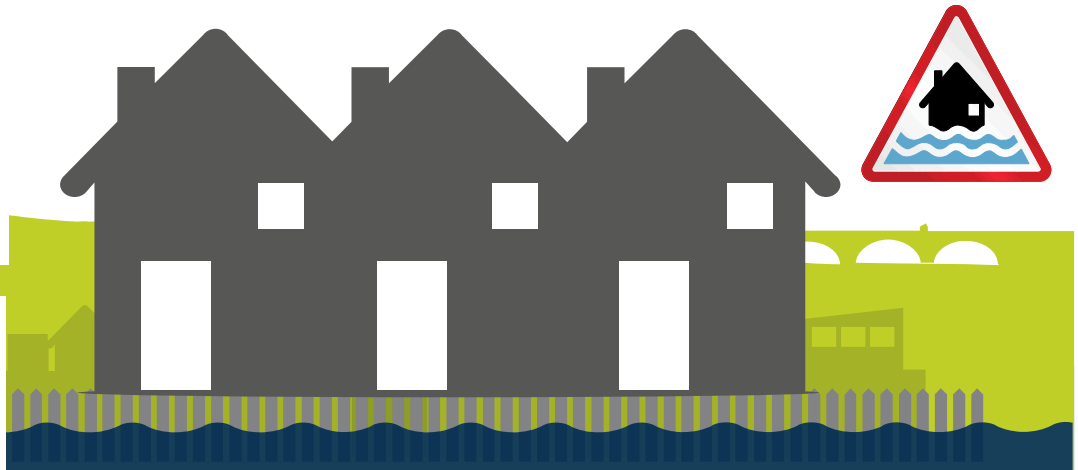
Where can you go for updates on flooding?

Your local radio station(s) **BBC Radio Somerset 95.5FM or DAB digital**
Follow us **@ EnvAgencySW** **EnvironmentAgencyWessex**
Make sure you know your local radio station
Visit https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/ for current flood alerts and warnings, five day flood forecast and river, groundwater and rainfall levels.

Your community is at risk of Flash Flooding

Stay safe. Do you know what to do?

Kingston St Mary



Extreme flash flooding is dangerous and can happen very quickly. The effects can be devastating.

Look inside to find out about the dangers of flash flooding and how to stay safe.

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Environment Agency

FLOODS DESTROY BE PREPARED

Your community is at risk of flash flooding

The Environment Agency works hard to pinpoint where flash floods are likely to happen and have identified that your community is at risk. Most major flash floods occur in places where there have been none in living memory so it is vital that, even if flooding hasn't happened in your community for a long time, you know what to do and how to stay safe.

This leaflet sets out some simple actions to ensure you know what to do if a flash flood happens.

What is flash flooding?

Flash floods occur extremely quickly - much faster than other forms of flooding - and with massive force. They can move rocks, tear out trees, sweep away vehicles and destroy buildings and bridges.

They tend to happen when heavy rainfall runs off land and quickly swells rivers and streams. Water can also build up quickly in urban areas when rainfall is unable to drain away.

How to recognise a flash flood:

- **heavy rainfall**
- **a short time between the rainfall and flooding**
- **large amounts of fast flowing water**
- **damage to buildings and structures**
- **dangers presented by debris**
- **there is an urgent threat to life**



What you can do to help slow, or stop flood water coming into your home - Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

If you own part of the river bank you should keep the banks and bed of the river clear of debris. For information and guidance visit www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

You or your landlord could buy flood boards to help stop water coming through the door or airbrick covers from surface water flooding or flooding from the river.

Make sure any PFR is accessible, serviced and working, e.g. pumps and seals.

For helpful information, guidance, downloadable guides, case studies and factsheets visit:

- **www.thefloodhub.co.uk/property-flood-resilience-toolkit/**
- **www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding**
- **www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk**
- **www.floodmary.com**
- **www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter/**





What should you do if you have to leave your home?

Here's a handy list of things to consider taking with you:

- Insurance details
- Landlord's details
- Spare glasses/contact lenses
- Medication
- Mobile phone and charger
- Torch and wind-up radio
- Bottled water and food
- Warm clothing
- Baby nappies, food and toys



Who can you contact about flooding?

Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 807060

Floodline 24-hours 0345 9881188 www.gov.uk/flood

Somerset Council 0300 123 2224 www.somerset.gov.uk
flooding@somerset.gov.uk

Report Property Flooding swim.geowessex.com/somerset

Wessex Water 0345 6004600 www.wessexwater.co.uk

National Grid 0800 052 0400 /105 powercut

National Gas Helpline 0800 111 999/ 105 powercut

Insurance abi.org.uk (Association of British Insurers)
and FloodRe.co.uk

National Flood Forum 01299 403055 www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

Your local flood warden is a valuable source of information and knowledge – contact your Parish Council for more information

If you think your life is in danger call 999

Flash flooding can happen suddenly. You may have to act before the Environment Agency can issue a warning, or before emergency services can reach you.

People particularly at risk are those:

- In basements or single-storey properties
- In a mobile home, tent, caravan, boat or wooden structure
- Unfamiliar with the area e.g. tourists



What can you do now?

Understand the flood risk for your home and surrounding area

Sign up to receive the flood alert for the local area

Sign up to the MetOffice National Severe Weather Warning Service via web or app

It's really easy to take these actions:

- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188
- Visit www.gov.uk/flood
- Visit www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



FLOODING IS EXPECTED

Be Flood Aware, Prepared and Ready to Take Action

Make a personal flood plan and a checklist of things you need should you need to leave your home.

Consider Property Flood Resilience (PFR), if you haven't already

Chat to friends and neighbours about how you could help each other

Check to see if your insurance covers flooding

Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies



What can you do when you get a flood alert?

Check that your family, neighbours and pets are okay.



Move important things upstairs or to higher shelves, so they don't get covered in dirty flood water.



How will roads and travelling be affected?



What would we do if our electricity went out?

Where would I put items to keep them safe?



When do I install my property flood resilience measures?

www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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Environment Agency

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