

WILTSHIRE AND DISTRICT COUNCILS FLOOD PLAN

Objectives of the Plan

The plan sets out the Local Authority actions in preparing for and responding to flood situations in the county. The plan also outlines the Environment Agency (EA) Flood Warning codes and how they trigger the Local Authority level of response. The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) agreed procedures and protocols by both Local Authorities and partnership agencies including a county sandbag policy are also included in the plan.

Sections 2 to 5 of the plan cover location specific plans, Local Incident Plans (LIPs), for each of the four District Councils within Wiltshire.

Agencies involved and responsibilities

The responsibilities and actions of all agencies involved in the response to flooding are set out in the plan.

The Flood Warning Codes

In England and Wales the EA operates a flood warning service in areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Using the latest available technology, they monitor rainfall, river levels and sea conditions 24 hours a day and use this information to forecast the possibility of flooding. If flooding is forecast, warnings are issued by the EA using a set of four easily recognisable codes as follows.

Environment Agency Codes:

Flood Watch
Flood Warning
Severe Flood Warning
All Clear

Details of the codes are given at Annex A to the plan.

Flood Warning Codes Notification Procedure

EA Floodline Warning During Working Hours:

All District Councils receive warnings from the EA through their Environmental Health Officers. They are not notified by the EPU.

EA Floodline Warnings Out of Hours:

The duty Emergency Planning Officer contacts District Councils where appropriate for **FLOOD AND SEVERE FLOOD WARNINGS.**

Co-ordination

It has been agreed that Local Authorities assume the role of co-ordinators of inter-agency work to alleviate flooding problems.

Local Authority Level of Response and Responsibilities

The level of response to a flooding incident is prioritised as follows:

Flooding Affecting	Response
1. People	Action to protect life
2. Houses	Action to protect life and dwellings
3. Commercial Property	Possible action to protect property
4. Roads	Action to protect life, dwellings and essential access on main roads
5. Gardens/Agricultural land	No action

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Water Rescue Procedures

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service capabilities are set out in the plan. Levels of staff competence and equipment available at each station is included in the plan.

County Sandbag Provision Policy

The policy has been prepared by the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) using the best practise from District Council procedures. It will enable a joint approach for the provision of sandbags.

Each District Council has in past flooding incidents been involved in the delivery of significant quantities of sandbags to residents of the county. This represents a significant investment of resources and the policy builds on past experience to ensure a prompt, fair and efficient service.

Review of the Plan

As with all emergency plans produced within the EPU, the plan will be reviewed annually and also updated as appropriate with any lessons learned during an incident

DRAFT COUNTY SANDBAG PROVISION POLICY

Introduction

This policy has been prepared by Wiltshire Emergency Planning Unit for the County and District Councils within Wiltshire. This policy is the agreed procedure for a joint approach for provision of sandbags to prevent flooding.

Background

The agreed policy refers to responding to both major and minor flooding incidents.

To implement a response preparations made in advance include:

- A call out system that enables assistance to be given after a reasonable mobilisation period at any time of day or night.
- A limited stock of electric pumps that could be loaned to properties affected by flooding. (These are issued at the discretion of the Environment and Amenity Services Manager as an interim measure until the householder can make their own arrangements)
- Technical advice on how to protect homes and to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Encouraging Parish Councils to prepare an emergency flood plan for their locality.
- Stock piles of sandbags and sand.

Each District Council has in past flooding incidents been involved in the delivery of significant quantities of sandbags to residents of the county. This represents a significant investment of resources and this policy builds on past experience to ensure that the service is prompt, fair and efficient.

Priorities for Provision of Sandbags

The demand for sandbags will at times exceed the local authority's ability to fill and deliver them. The following criteria, in order of priority, are applied when deciding how to allocate sandbags:

- Any operation to reinforce flood defences preventing the flooding of multiple properties.
- To domestic properties, in imminent danger of internal flooding, at a rate of 6 per door and 3 per airbrick.
- Protection of commercial premises against internal flooding.
- Assisting the Highway Authority to keep strategic roads passable.
- Mutual aid to other Agencies.

No sandbags will be provided to protect gardens, sheds, garages, etc

Restrictions on the supply of Sandbags

The District Council may supply sandbags free of charge for a first request. The Council will charge for delivery of sandbags in the following circumstances:

1. All commercial properties.
2. Mutual aid to other Agencies outside the District.
3. Domestic property owners that have previously received sandbags from the District Council and have disposed of them.
4. Domestic property owners that have failed to undertake requested flood remedial or protection measures.
5. Domestic property owners within parishes that have been provided with a stockpile of sand and empty bags.

Note the charge for sandbags may be waived at the discretion of the appropriate District Council officer.

Sandbags once issued become the property of the property owner and should be retained for future use or if applicable disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Partnerships and review of the policy

The District Councils will work in partnership with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire County Council and Parish Councils to reduce the risk of flooding.

As part of the partnership District Councils may provide stockpiles of sand and empty bags within parishes particularly susceptible to flooding.

The District Councils will endeavour to contact all properties receiving sandbags to establish the cause of the flooding, offer advice to reduce the risk of flooding and inform them of products that may better protect their properties.

Wiltshire County Council EPU will review this policy as part of the review of the Flood Plan. The policy will be revised and reissued as necessary.