

DL

EA South West 02 Box 7



Be prepared...

Because floods can
happen any time

Calendar 2003



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Floods can happen at any time...



Broadway, Bridgwater - 9 a.m.
11 January 1974



The high tide at Bridgwater on
the morning of 16 February
1957



Calne, Wiltshire - March 1932



Weston-super-Mare -
28 April 2002



Flooded High Street at
Midsomer Norton - 30 May
1979



Staverton Bridge - June 1932



Dorchester Street, Bath -
July 1968



Welshmill Road, Bristol -
August 1965



Perrymead School, Whitchurch,
Bristol - 27 September 1974



Athelney Inn, River Tone - noon
October 1960



Bathford - November 2000



Malmesbury - December 1960



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This calendar of flood events has been produced by the Flood Warning team of North Wessex Area and aims to highlight the fact that floods can happen at any time of the year. Each month highlights a flood event that has happened in North Wessex.

The North Wessex Area has a population of 1,700,000 with almost 50,000 homes and businesses at risk of flooding. Dealing with widespread flooding is a big task and one in which we have many professional partners including Local Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, Police and the Fire Service, each with our own roles and responsibilities in a major flood event. Working in partnership with each other makes the task of event management possible.

We hope you use and enjoy the calendar and remember the message that we should all be prepared for flooding whatever time of year it is.

Tony Owen

Dr Tony Owen
North Wessex Area Manager

DBC



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INFORMATION SERVICE

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Rio House, Waterside Drive,
Aztec West, Almondsbury,
Bristol BS32 4UD

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January 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

'As we all must recognise, disasters can strike suddenly, unexpectedly and anywhere. Many agencies have a part to play in dealing with the disaster and its aftermath, and the effectiveness of the total response will depend on how well the emergency services, Local Authorities and Central Government have harmonised their preparations and exercised their arrangements and emergency procedures.'

Jack Straw,
Dealing with Disaster Home Office
publication



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February 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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The Flood Defence Emergency Response Project was established as part of the Environment Agency's response to the floods of 1998. Membership of the group consisted of the Environment Agency, Local Government Association, The Association of Chief Police Officers, Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Association and British Waterways. It made 5 major proposals.

- The adoption of a common definition of a Major Flooding Incident;
- Standard definitions of roles and responsibilities in flood defence for all organisations;
- The adoption of a common multi-organisation emergency planning structure for flood risk management at a local level;
- The establishment of a National Joint Strategic Flood Group;
- An agreed mechanism for developing a Joint Exercise Programme for Major Flooding Incidents.

The most fundamental recommendation of the FDER Project Report, and the main driver for the implementation of the Report's recommendations, is the adoption of a common multi-organisation emergency planning structure, which includes the participation of the Environment Agency.

Flood Defence Emergency Response (FDER) Project Final Report 1999



March 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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The role of the Environment Agency in a major flooding event is as follows:

- Issues flood warnings
- Maintains and operates vital flood defences
- Monitors water levels and flows, assessing risk and advising the emergency services and Local Authority
- Checks flood defences and undertakes essential repairs and maintenance as necessary, monitors and clears blockages of culverts, and breaches of defences
- Advises on the need to declare a major civil emergency
- Supports the joint response by providing representatives to the various emergency control points
- By local agreement, once it has ensured that its own systems and defences are secure, the Agency supports the Police and local authority by providing materials, equipment and manpower, as far as its resources and other duties permit

Flood Defence Emergency Response (FDER) Project Final Report 1999



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April 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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The role of the Police in a major flooding event is as follows:

- Co-ordinating the emergency services
- Assisting in the saving of life and protection of property
- Where practical establish cordons to facilitate the work of the other emergency services
- Oversee any criminal investigation
- Facilitate inquiries carried out by the responsible accident investigation body
- Process casualty information and have responsibility for identifying and arranging removal of the dead
- In the event of the agreed procedures for warning and informing communities at risk not being effective, then, where practicable, assistance will be given

Flood Defence Emergency Response (FDER) Project Final Report 1999



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May 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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In major flood situations, Local Authorities provide an immediate response in order to care for people affected. The types of help that the authority could provide include:

- Co-ordination of the local authority response and liaison with other organisations
- Emergency care including feeding accommodation and welfare for those evacuated and those remaining at home but affected by the flooding
- Emergency transport for personnel, equipment and materials and if necessary, evacuation
- Information services
- Flood alleviation - for flood prevention e.g. clearance of blocked culverts and flooded roads
- May include assistance to the public such as sandbags or drying out facilities
- Emergency environmental health advice for action relating to environmental problems of flooding
- Joint agency co-ordination of non-life threatening floods and of the recovery phase
- Co-ordination of the voluntary response

Flood Defence Emergency Response (FDER) Project Final Report 1999



June 2003

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The Fire Service role in a major flooding event is as follows:

- The saving of life and rescuing trapped persons from fire, wreckage or debris
- The containment and extinguishing of fires and undertaking measures to prevent them
- To prevent, contain and make safe spillage or release of chemicals, radioactive materials or other hazardous substances
- To assist the ambulance service with casualty handling
- To assist the police with the recovery of bodies
- The provision of monitoring procedures in respect of health and safety of those persons operating within an established inner cordon
- Carrying out essential damage control operations, such as pumping out water and salvage works (some fire services charge for such operations)
- To assist other relevant agencies, particularly the local authority, to minimise the effects of major flooding on the community

Flood Defence Emergency Response (FDER) Project Final Report 1999



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July 2003

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Flood Warning Codes, Information
you can act on



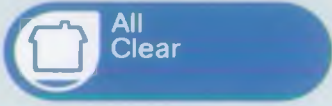
Flood Watch
Be aware! Be prepared! Watch Out!



Flood Warning
Flooding expected affecting homes, businesses and main roads. Act now!



Severe Flood Warning
Severe flooding expected. Imminent danger to life and property. Act Now!



All Clear
Flood water levels are receding. Check that all is safe to return. Seek advice!



August 2003

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Be prepared- Making a Family Flood Plan

Flooding happens quickly and often when you least expect it. Your plan can cover -

- A list of useful numbers, e.g. the emergency services, Floodline, your insurance company
- A flood kit - personal documents, torch, battery operated radio, mobile phone, warm and waterproof clothing, first aid kit and blankets
- Medication - would you need any family medication?
- Children's essentials - sterilized bottles, milk, baby food, nappies and a favourite toy or teddy
- Valuable and sentimental belongings - get into the habit of storing them upstairs
- Flood boards and sandbags - Have a few flood boards or sandbags prepared to block doorways and airbricks
- Gas and electricity - Do you know where to turn them off, even in the dark?
- Car - Where would you move it to?
- Evacuation - If the flooding is severe you may be evacuated. What would you need to take with you? Make a list. What provision can you make for family pets?



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September 2003

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Know what to do if a flood warning is issued:

- Act promptly
- Alert neighbours and assist the elderly or infirm
- Move people, pets and valuables to safety
- Have spare warm clothing, a torch, a battery powered radio and waterproofs to hand
- Keep up to date with flood warning information on local radio
- Put flood boards in place or contact the local council who will be able to help you locate a supply of sandbags
- Switch off gas and electricity supplies if flooding is imminent
- Do not enter deep or fast flowing water - think safety!
- Take police advice on the need to evacuate



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October 2003

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Clearing up after a flood

- Call your insurance company's emergency helpline as soon as possible
- Find out where you can get help. Check with your Local Authority or Health Authority. Look under 'Flood damage' in your yellow pages
- Open doors and windows to ventilate the house. It takes a house brick about a month to dry out and inch
- Contact your gas, electricity and water company. Have your power supplies checked before you turn them back on
- Wash taps and run them for a few minutes before use
- Throw away food that may have been in contact with floodwater.
- Beware of bogus traders. Always check references and if possible get recommendations. Contact your local authority Trading Standards department for advice.



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November 2003

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Floodline 0845 9881188 is the Environment Agency's telephone advice and information line which operates 24 hours a day.

- Listen to pre-recorded information on the latest flooding situation in your area
- Listen to pre-recorded information on roads and travel
- Speak to an agent for general advice and information

Quickdial Codes

The Somerset Coast	0432
West Somerset Streams	043112
The River Tone and its tributaries	043113
The Somerset Moors	043114
Other rivers in South Somerset	043124
The Rivers Isle and Parrett	043122
The Rivers Yeo, Wriggle and Cam	043123
The Rivers Axe, Brue, Congresbury Yeo and Sheppey	043131
The Rivers Somerset Frome, Mells, Whatley and Nunney Brooks	04422
Other rivers in North Somerset	043133
The Rivers Bristol Frome, Boyd and By Brook	04412
Other tributaries of the lower Avon river from Bath to Bristol	04413
The Rivers Chew, Midford, Brislington and Ashton Vale Brooks	04411
The River Avon from Malmesbury to Bath and Bristol	0443
The Rivers Biss, Semington and Marden	04421
Other tributaries of the upper Avon river from Malmesbury to Bath	04423



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December 2003

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Flood hazards

- Floods can kill. Don't try to walk or drive through floodwater - six inches of fast flowing water can knock you over and two feet of water will float your car
- Manhole covers may have come off and there may be other hazards you can't see
- Never try to swim through fast flowing water - you may get swept away or be struck by an object in the water
- Don't walk on sea defences, riverbanks or cross river bridges - they may collapse in extreme situations or you may be swept off by large waves. Beware of stones and pebbles being thrown up by waves
- Avoid contact with floodwater - it may be contaminated with sewage
- Move your family and pets upstairs or to higher ground. If the flooding is severe the authorities may move you to temporary accommodation
- Switch off water, gas and electricity supplies at the first sign of flooding to your property



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SOUTH WEST REGION ADDRESSES

REGIONAL OFFICE

Environment Agency
South West Region
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 444 238

CORNWALL AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Sir John Moore House
Victoria Square
Bodmin PL31 1EB
Tel: 01208 78301
Fax: 01208 78321

NORTH WESSEX

AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Rivers House
East Quay
Bridgwater TA6 4YS
Tel: 01278 457 333
Fax: 01278 452 985

SOUTH WESSEX

AREA OFFICE
Environment Agency
Rivers House
Sunrise Business Park
Higher Shaftesbury Road
Blandford DT11 8ST
Tel: 01258 456 080
Fax: 01258 455 998

DEVON AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Exminster House
Miller Way
Exminster
Devon EX6 8AS
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 316 016



www.environment-agency.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE

0845 933 3111

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
FLOODLINE

0845 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60

- Area Administrative Boundaries
- Regional Boundary
- Area Office
- ▲ Regional Headquarters



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