

# Willoughby Flood Action Group

## What To Do Before, During and After Flooding

This leaflet has been prepared by the Willoughby Flood Action Group to inform residents about what they can do in the event of flooding. The information is adapted from guidance provided by the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (CSW) Resilience Team [www.cswprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/flooding/advice-during-flooding](http://www.cswprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/flooding/advice-during-flooding). Please read the information below in conjunction with the Emergency Planning document on the Parish Council website.

### 1. ADVICE DURING FLOODING

**REMEMBER, ALWAYS STAY SAFE in an immediate flood emergency or, where there is a risk to life, call 999.**

**If you become aware of imminent flooding in your area and knowing the risks to your property – take the following steps to stay safe and protect yourself and your property:**

- Stay informed by emergency services and flood wardens, and follow their advice.
- Move valuable items upstairs, raise furniture and appliances which cannot be moved upstairs.
- Put flood protection measures in place e.g. gel bags, sand bags, door barriers.
- Secure any outside items that may cause further damage or float away.
- Turn off utilities to parts of the property that may be flooded and do not drink water from the mains supply, if the pressure has dropped - it may be contaminated. Drink bottled water until assured the mains is free from contamination.
- Keep up to date with alerts and forecasts.
- Do not try to walk through flood water, it may be deeper than appears or be concealing dangerous obstacles.
- Avoid driving through flood water; you may be putting yourself and others at risk. Move vehicles at risk of standing in floodwater to a safe place where they do not hinder emergency vehicles.

### 2. TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE FOR FLOODING

- Determine whether your home is in an area likely to be flooded. If so, check you have appropriate insurance cover for your property and vehicle.
- Consider investing in flood defence products to protect your home.
- Keep a supply of food and bottled water in the house in case you are unable to get to the shops during a flood.
- If your home is likely to flood, identify which items you will wish to move to a high level and furniture and appliances you would like to move above water level, together with the means of doing it e.g. using blocks or bricks.
- Be aware of which roads are likely to flood and plan alternative routes home to avoid them.
- Have a communication plan with the rest of your family.
- There is nowhere in the village where you will become absolutely stranded but your vehicles may be unable to leave your premises. However, if the area is heavily flooded, it would be unwise to make any unnecessary journeys.

### 3. ADVICE ON RECOVERING FROM FLOODING

- Assume floodwater has been contaminated with sewage and avoid contact wherever possible by use of disposable gloves.
- It is important to stop harmful germs that might be present in floodwater from spreading to food. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all potentially contaminated surfaces and items is advised. Any contaminated food must be thrown away. If a freezer has been without power for long enough to allow the contents to start to thaw, all such food must be discarded.
- Flooding presents a number of hazards to utilities in the home. Follow [electric](#) and [gas](#) safety advice before switching them back on.
- Contact your insurer if you have not done so already and let them know the situation, they will advise you of the next steps to take in restoring your home and belongings.
- Report when your property has flooded as this helps Warwickshire County Council investigate why the flood has occurred and look for methods to mitigate the risk from happening in the future, if possible. [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit)

#### Flood barriers for doors

A few residents may wish to purchase removable barriers for their front or back doors. There are lots of options. The links below show examples of the types of barriers available. Both websites have videos explaining how their barriers work.

<https://floodshield.com/products/floodshield>

<https://floodgate.ltd.uk/floodgates/>

#### Electrical Safety

1. If entering property in darkness after flooding when items may have been moved around, use a torch. Under no circumstances use a naked flame as means of illumination.
2. Switch off the electricity supply at the fuse box, if it is safe to do so. If there is evidence of water inside the fuse box or if there are signs of arcing or overheating, seek professional advice. Do not attempt to reinstate electrical circuits that have tripped out until professional advice has been sought.
3. Unplug damaged electrical appliances and move all portable ones away from the area affected by flooding.
4. Do not use any mains powered electrical appliances in areas affected by flooding until advised by a competent person that it is safe to do so.

#### Advice from Gas Safe Register

1. Contact your gas supplier so they can advise you of the general situation in the area.
2. Get in touch with a Gas Safe registered engineer before turning the gas supply back on. They will make sure the installation pipework is not filled with water. If it is, this must be removed from the supply before the gas appliances can be re-checked, confirmed as safe, and used as normal.
3. Ensure any electrical supply to a gas appliance is isolated before allowing mains electrical power to be switched back on. Although a gas appliance may not have been submerged it may have increased condensation that could lead to a fault. If petrol or diesel driven pumps and generators are used to clear flood waters ensure there is sufficient ventilation to prevent build up of carbon monoxide from exhaust gases. Adequate ventilation must be ensured if using bottle gas heaters for drying out.

#### Local Support

If you have any questions, please contact the Lead Flood Warden, Ant Ray on 01788 891317/07711 502854 or at [ant.ray1963@sky.com](mailto:ant.ray1963@sky.com) or Bert Ogle, Chair, on 01788 890498/07456 956026 or at [bertogle@aol.com](mailto:bertogle@aol.com)