

Some practical steps on
flood response



Please Read These Important Safety Messages First

- ◆ Don't go into flood water. Never let children play in flood water. There could be hidden dangers like sharp objects, missing manhole covers and pollution. Just 150mm (six inches) of fast flowing water can knock an adult off their feet.
- ◆ If you must go into flood water to protect your property or to help others, take care. Never enter flood water that is moving or more than 100mm deep (four inches). Don't enter flood water unless you can see the ground. Consider using a pole / brush handle to test the ground in front of you. Never walk through a flooded basement.
- ◆ Don't drive into flood water: A car can float in just 600mm (two feet) of water.
- ◆ If you touch flood water always wash your hands afterwards with hot water and soap.
- ◆ Don't touch any electrical appliances, cables or equipment while standing in flood water, or any appliances that have been immersed in flood water.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide kills. Make sure you have good ventilation if using portable indoor heating appliances to dry out indoor spaces. Never use petrol or diesel generators or other similar fuel-driven equipment indoors as the exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, which can kill.



If your house is about to flood right now

- ◆ Call 999 if you or your neighbours are in danger.
- ◆ Lock your house and leave. If you have time, grab some essentials you might need for the next few days. Stay with family or friends, or call your insurance provider for temporary accommodation or ask a responder where the nearest emergency shelter is.
- ◆ If it is not safe to leave your house, move your family and pets upstairs or to a high place with a means of escape.
- ◆ If you have time, turn off gas, electricity and water supplies. Never touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water.
- ◆ Check in with your vulnerable neighbours and relatives, if it is safe to do so.



If you have some time to prepare before your house floods

- Have Radio Humberside 95.9FM playing in the background while you prepare in case there are any warning messages issued by the emergency responders.
- Gather essential items you might need if you have to leave your home for a few days. Items will differ from person to person, but think about:
 - Copies of key documents (such as passport, birth certificates).
 - Home and car insurance phone numbers and policy details.
 - Medication, prescriptions and a first aid kit.
 - Toiletries, wet wipes and/or antibacterial hand gel.
 - Torch.
 - Any special items for babies, children etc.
 - A vacuum flask and hot water bottle.
 - Spare glasses/contact lenses.
 - Spare set of keys.
 - Snacks and drink.
 - Mobile phone/charger.
 - Books or other forms of entertainment to pass the time.
 - Small amount of cash/credit cards.
 - If you have pets, suitable carriers for small animals, a water bowl, bedding, pet medication and a supply of food.
- If there is a chance you might need to shelter in your house during a flood, take some basic provisions upstairs. Fill jugs and saucepans with clean water.



💧 Protect what you can. Take items upstairs or to a safe place in your property. Think about:

- Items of personal value like photos, family films or treasured mementos.
- Important papers like insurance documents and passports.
- Possessions that are expensive or hard to replace.
- Moving drawers if furniture is too heavy to move.
- Taking curtains down or wrapping them around the curtain pole.
- Focusing on light items that can be moved quickly and easily.
- Pulling furniture that can't be moved elsewhere away from the walls and weighing it so it doesn't float and damage walls and windows.
- Raising furniture that can't be moved elsewhere onto bricks and fastening plastic bags around the legs.



💧 If possible, move your outside belongings to higher ground. Think about:

- Outdoor pets and their cages, food and bedding.
- Moving your car if roads are not already flooded.
- Equipment in shed/garage.

💧 Try and stop water entering your home:

- Brush away any leaves that might be blocking the gullies near to your home.
- If you have any flood protection equipment, such as floodboards or airbrick covers, put them in place.
- Put plugs in sinks and baths and weigh them down with something heavy. Try to weigh down the toilet seat too.
- If you do not have non-return valves fitted, plug water inlet pipes with towels or cloths and disconnect any equipment that uses water (like washing machines and dishwashers).



💧 Sandbags

- Sandbags are of limited use. They can help divert the path of running water and they might keep water out of your property for a little while if you use them with plastic sheeting to block doorways, drains and other openings into properties. But you will need lots of them. They seep water and they will not stop water coming up through floor boards or from neighbouring properties.
- Sandbags are of no use if your property is already flooded.
- If you don't have any sandbags you can make your own by filling pillow cases or refuse sacks with garden soil. You can use silicone sealant to block cable entry points.
- Because sandbags are of limited use, your time may be better spent moving your belongings out of harms way.

💧 If you have time, please try and help your neighbours prepare.



Some helpful contacts

Organisation	Telephone Number(s)
Anglian Water	08457 145145
Citizens Advice Bureau	0300 3300 888
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	(01482) 393939
Electricity Emergency Service and Supply Failures	08457 331331
Environment Agency Floodline	0345 988 1188
Gas Emergency Service and Gas Escapes	0800 111 999
Gas Safe Register	0800 408 5500
Hull City Council	(01482) 300300
National Flood Forum	(01299) 403055
NHS	111
North East Lincolnshire Council	(01472) 313131
North Lincolnshire Council	(01724) 297000
Northern Powergrid	0800 375 675 / 0330 123 0675
Police Non Emergency	101
Severn Trent Water	0800 783 4444
Yorkshire Water	08451 242424

