



Hazard Facts

- ▶ Flooding is the overflow of water that submerges land which is usually dry. Flooding can happen at any time of the year.
- ▶ There are three main sources of flooding in Scotland:
 - ▶ River (fluvial) – heavy or persistent rain can cause the level of a river to rise until it eventually overflows onto surrounding land.
 - ▶ Coastal – adverse weather and tidal conditions, often coupled with waves, can cause flooding around our coastlines.
 - ▶ Surface water (pluvial) – occurs when intense rainfall exceeds the ability of the ground or drainage network to absorb or dissipate the water.
- ▶ Public bodies are working closer than ever before to manage the risk and impacts of flooding across Scotland.
- ▶ The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is Scotland's national flood forecasting, flood warning and strategic flood risk management authority. Local authorities are responsible for implementing and maintaining flood protection measures e.g. defences.

How to reduce the impact of flooding

- ▶ Sign up to Floodline for free advance notice of flooding in your area.
www.floodlinescotland.org.uk
- ▶ Prepare a flood plan and emergency "grab bag" so everyone knows what to do when flooding occurs.
- ▶ Consider installing flood protection products on your property.
- ▶ If flooding is forecast:
 - ▶ Shut off utilities – electricity, gas and water supply.
 - ▶ Move important documents and valuables to a higher place.
 - ▶ Move vehicles out of the flood risk area.
- ▶ During a flood:
 - ▶ Do not attempt to walk, drive or swim through flood water.
 - ▶ Avoid any direct contact with flood water.
 - ▶ Co-operate with the emergency services.
- ▶ After a flood:
 - ▶ If your property has flooded, contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
 - ▶ Wear rubber gloves, wellies and protective clothing during the clean up process.

Community Resilience and Flooding

Individuals and communities can help themselves to be better prepared against the impacts of severe weather and flooding.

Visit www.readyscotland.org/my-community/ to find out more.



Managing Flood Risk

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, suited to the needs of the 21st century and to the impact of climate change.

Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans are published which help to coordinate efforts to tackle flooding in Scotland. While flood warnings, flood defences, effective surface water management and other policies can reduce the risk from flooding, these risks can never be completely eliminated.

Further details are available at:

www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/

Scottish Flood Forecasting and Warning

SEPA is Scotland's national flood forecasting and flood warning authority. This includes delivering the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service (SFFS), a partnership between SEPA and the Met Office. SEPA has a network of almost 800 rainfall, river and coastal monitoring stations throughout Scotland recording data 24 hours a day. This hydrological data is combined with meteorological information from the Met Office to predict the likelihood and timing of river, coastal and surface water flooding. The aims of the service are to:

- ▶ Provide countrywide flood guidance for Category 1 and 2 responders up to five days ahead.
- ▶ Provide improved flood forecasting capabilities to underpin Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings for Floodline customers across Scotland.
- ▶ Act as the centre of excellence for the development of flood forecasting capabilities in river, coastal and surface water flooding in Scotland.



Scottish Flood Forecasting Service
Working in partnership



To help raise awareness of risk, members of the public who come across flooding anywhere in Scotland can report it using the Report-a-Flood tool to warn others. Visit www.floodlinescotland.org.uk/report-a-flood to find out more.

Flooding in Scotland

Flooding impacts include disruption to:

Our Homes and communities

108,000 properties in Scotland are estimated to be at risk of flooding*, however, the damaging consequences of flooding are not limited only to property and possessions. Flooding can have lasting impacts on the physical health and mental wellbeing of those affected.

Our Travel and infrastructure

Public transport links and road networks can be affected by flooding. Driving in wet conditions can be hazardous and longer journey times can be expected. It can also disrupt utilities and other critical infrastructure and services such as hospitals, schools and emergency response capability.

Our Business and economy

In addition to the direct damages to business premises, floods impact on employees, transportation routes, stock and customers. All of these impacts can have negative economic implications for Scotland.

* SEPA Flood Risk Management Strategies (2015)



The Natural Hazards Partnership (NHP), established in 2011, provides information, research and analysis on natural hazards for the development of more effective policies, communications and services for civil contingencies, governments and the responder community across the UK.