Preventing Protecting Responding

Safety Information

In the event of Flooding, Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service would like to offer the following information to assist local residents:-

In the event of severe or continuous rain or high tidal conditions there is a strong possibility of localised flooding.

In severe cases no drainage systems or flood barriers can give absolute protection against all flooding events.

If flooding is likely, homeowners are advised to:

Before any Flooding –

Move valuables, food and other possessions upstairs where possible.

Assume that flood water contains sewage so wash your hands thoroughly if you touch flood water.

Have a supply of drinking water in clean bottles or similar containers as main water supplies may become contaminated through widespread flooding.

Fill the bath and buckets with water for washing etc.

Put people before property – help your family and neighbours first and check that neighbours know about any flood warnings that may have been issued.

Put together a flood kit of essential items – copies of your home insurance documents, a torch with spare batteries, a wind-up or battery radio, a fully charged mobile phone, warm, waterproof clothing and blankets, a first aid kit and prescription medication, bottled water, non perishable food and a list of important contact numbers.

Protect doorways and low level vents with sand bags or alternatives such as soil or gravel. If these vents are used for heating or cooking appliances then **remember** to unblock the vents before switching appliances back on.

When flood water is about to enter your Home –

Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if it's safe to do so but do not touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water!

Put plugs in sinks and baths, and weigh them down with a sandbag, a pillow-case or plastic bag filled with garden soil or a heavy object.

Sewers or cess-pits are not designed to dispel flood water. Baling flood water into the sewer system will engulf it and can cause foul water flooding.

Beware that manhole covers may become displaced by flood water.

In the case of severe flooding be prepared to evacuate your home taking your bag of essential items with you.

Leave your home if the emergency services say so. Refusing to leave on their advice will put you, your family and those trying to help you at risk. Remember to lock up your property.

After Flooding –

Only return to your property when it's safe to do so.

Take care when returning to the property as there may be hidden hazards in the remaining flood water; and the water could have caused structural damage to the property.

When clearing up after the flood, always wear waterproof clothing including gloves and wellington boots or waders as the water may contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste.

If it's dark, use a torch, not candles.

Throw away all foods, including canned goods, which have come into contact with flood water. Don't eat garden or allotment vegetables if they have been covered by flood water.

If your house has been flooded and your electricity supply is not already switched off at the mains, get a qualified person to do this.

If your property has been damaged, inform your landlord if rented property or ring your buildings and contents insurance companies as soon as possible. In almost all cases the insurance company will send a Loss Adjuster to look at your property and confirm what repairs and replacements are needed and covered by your policy.

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Don’t panic if you can’t cope – if you are not happy with the response from your insurers the Citizens Advice Bureau can provide assistance with insurance matters.

The advice to residents is to regularly check the TV news, teletext, local radio and newspapars for the latest flooding and weather updates from the Emergency Services and States Departments.

Should you require any assistance both prior or during flooding, then please do not hesitate to contact Guernsey Fire & Rescue Service Control Room Tel: 724491 or 999 in the event of an emergency.