



BRIEFING NOTE ON FLOODING RESPONSIBILITIES

East Staffordshire Borough Council

East Staffordshire Borough Council is a Category 1 responder as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and works closely in Staffordshire with the Civil Contingencies Unit, emergency services, other local authorities, health authorities and other organisations (the Staffordshire Local Resilience Forum or LRF) in fulfilling its obligations.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 covers the following: Information Sharing; Risk Assessments; Emergency Planning; Business Continuity Management; Communicating with the Public; Working with the Voluntary Sector; Audit and Monitoring and specific responsibilities are placed on local authorities with regards to the provision of shelter, warmth and food for any displaced persons evacuated in the event of an emergency (for example through activating a Reception Centre or Rest Centre).

In the event of severe weather or excessive rainfall, the Environment Agency would initiate a Flood Advisory Service (FAS) meeting facilitated by the Civil Contingencies Unit, to provide members of the LRF with predictions of potential flooding before or after heavy or prolonged rainfall, to ensure that each member of the forum is able to activate emergency plans, as necessary.

The Council hosts a range of useful flood information on its [emergency planning webpages](#) which details responsibilities and signposts visitors to a wide range of helpful information. The Council will also proactively share relevant flooding communications when relevant, in addition to sharing communications from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and other partner organisations where appropriate.

Information Available to the Public

The risk of flooding is designated in the Staffordshire Community Risk Register as the most important risk facing many communities in the county, including East Staffordshire. To find out if a property is vulnerable to possible fluvial (river or stream) flooding, members of the public can visit the Environment Agency's website, which contains detailed maps for the whole country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Users may check: current flood warnings or alerts; river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels and flood risk in the next 5 days. <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>

The Agency's website also depicts river depth readings from a nationwide network of gauges; there are 8 locations in or adjacent to East Staffordshire:

- River Trent: Drakelow and Kings Bromley (for Burton upon Trent);
- River Dove: Rocester, Doveridge, Aston Bridge and Rolleston on Dove;
- River Churnet: Quixhill (Denstone);
- River Tean: Upper Tean.



Readings are updated every 15 minutes and can be found via the following link: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>. This information gives a useful warning of imminent flooding after heavy or prolonged rainfall – also to be found on the Borough Council’s website (<http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/emergency-planning>).

Members of the public can sign up to the Environment Agency’s free flood warning service if their home or business in England is at risk of flooding. Warnings can be received about flooding from rivers, the sea or groundwater, depending on the area (flood warnings for surface water flooding (sometimes known as ‘flash flooding’) cannot be provided). This can be done via the Environment Agency’s website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>. Members of the public without access to the internet may register via the telephone service 0345 988 1188.

The Environment Agency website contains a lot of information about what to do if you are worried about a flood, are flooded, and how to clean up after a flood. Use the following links to find out more, which all take you to the Environment Agency website: [What to do if you are worried about flooding](#); [How to get help during a flood](#); [How to clear up after a flood](#) - including information on insurance, temporary accommodation and practical clearing up tips.

Responsibilities

Type of Flooding	Organisation	Comments
Highway Drains	Staffordshire County Council	The highway drainage system in Staffordshire is designed to take water away from the road surface, but even with a well-maintained system, problems can arise during periods of heavy or prolonged rainfall. There are a total gully asset level of in the region of 165,000+ gullies, therefore, associated works are prioritised accordingly by the County Council.
Ditches and Watercourses;	Landowner	Ditches or watercourses are the responsibility of landowners (often called riparian owners). Roadside ditches normally belong to the adjoining landowner and not the highway authority, except where land has been acquired for new road building. The highway authority can discharge highway water to a roadside ditch and may maintain it but is under no obligation to do so.

<p>Piped watercourses and culverts</p>	<p>Landowner</p>	<p>Generally speaking these are the responsibility of the landowner (riparian owner). Where a watercourse or a ditch in a highway has been piped it remains the responsibility of adjoining landowners unless the piping was at the request of the highway authority in order to make the highway wider, safer or more convenient. In that situation the highway authority would need the consent of the ditch owner(s) and evidence of this consent would be evidence of the highway authority's liability. This applies equally to pipes, whether they cross a highway or run along it. The same duties, responsibilities and rights exist for piped watercourses and culverts as for ditches.</p>
<p>Public surface water sewers</p>	<p>Water Company</p>	<p>These drainage systems cater for rain water running off the surface of areas of hard standing and other generally impermeable areas such as car parks, industrial land and public amenity areas, and from the roofs of buildings. Responsibility for them is vested in the sewerage undertaker (usually the water company). Public surface water sewers are recorded on a map of public sewers held by the sewerage undertaker. Find Your Supplier Water UK</p>
<p>Foul sewers;</p>	<p>Severn Trent</p>	<p>If you see sewer debris in flood water, like toilet paper or poo, contact 0800 783 4444. Flooding In My Area Severn Trent Water</p>
<p>Critical watercourses and main rivers</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>These are major water channels (occasionally enclosed) which are identified and registered by the Environment Agency who is responsible for their maintenance and management.</p>
<p>Emergency response</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>The primary responsibility for protecting property from flooding rests with the property owner. The Environment Agency has a free service to notify property owners in flood risk areas of the risks they face. Those living within areas identified as being at risk from flooding are urged to follow the advice of the Environment Agency.</p>
<p>Evacuation Necessary</p>	<p>East Staffordshire Borough Council</p>	<p>The Borough Council has more than 30 pre-designated rest centres identified across the borough detailed within the Rest Centre Plan. During a major flooding incident for example, a decision will be taken by the Borough Council, in conjunction with advice from the Tactical Coordinating Group, to activate the necessary number and size of rest/reception centre(s) to receive evacuees who have been displaced due to a flooding incident.</p>



Staffordshire County Council - Flood Risk Management and the Local Lead Flood Authority

Staffordshire County Council are designated the Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and are responsible for delivering their flood risk management responsibilities including the production of flood risk management strategies.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Flood-Risk-Management/Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy.aspx>.

Under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the lead local flood authority, has a duty to investigate certain incidents of flooding and following any flooding event, residents who have experienced flooding are invited to complete an online questionnaire

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Environment/Flood-Risk-Management/Flood-Survey.aspx>

Other useful Information

The Civil Contingencies Unit hosts the Staffordshire Prepared website, which provides information on flooding; before; during and after a flood:

<https://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/Flooding.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/Before.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/During.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/After.aspx>

Members of the public may sign up to receive weather warnings for specific regions of the UK, via the Met Office website:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/subscribe-to-email-alerts#Warnings> .

The National Flood Forum has a helpline that provides general support before, during and after a flood, including home resilience and insurance. Contact the charity on 01299 403 055. Businesses and residents can prepare for possible flooding; the National Flood Forum, www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk, has a useful directory of a wide range of products that can reduce or remove the risk of flooding.

USEFUL NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	
<p>Environment Agency (Flood Line)</p> <p>This line is staffed by officers who can answer public queries re flooding risks and can give more details than the basic information on river levels etc on the Environment Agency's website. Members of the public and businesses can also sign up to receive flood alerts.</p>	0345 988 1188
<p>Environment Agency (Incident Reporting)</p> <p>This number is for the public to report any non-flooding concerns to the Environment Agency, eg pollution of water courses, fly-tipping etc.</p>	0800 807060
<p>Staffordshire CC Highways (office hours)</p> <p>Any Highways matters should be referred to the County Council.</p>	0300 111 8000
<p>Staffordshire CC Highways (duty engineer out of hours)</p> <p>Outside the County Council's switchboard hours, leave a message with the pager service, and the duty highways engineer for East Staffordshire will respond.</p>	08448 222888 Pager area 5
<p>Severn Trent Water (waste water and sewerage only)</p> <p>This is the company for all public queries re waste water and sewerage.</p>	0800 783 4444
<p>South Staffordshire Water (fresh water only)</p> <p>This is the company for the supply of fresh water only.</p>	0800 389 1011

Useful Social Media Channels to Follow

Organisation	Facebook	X (Twitter)
East Staffordshire Borough Council	@eaststaffsbc	@eaststaffsbc
East Staffordshire Police	@EastStaffordshirePolice	@EStaffsPolice
Environment Agency	@environmentagency	@EnvAgency
Met Office	@metoffice	@metoffice
Severn Trent	@OfficialSTW	@stwater
Staffordshire County Council	@StaffordshireCountyCouncil	@StaffordshireCC
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue	@StaffsFire	@StaffsFire
Staffordshire Police	@staffordshirepolice	@StaffsPolice