

Severe weather

Severe weather is not just rain or snow, it also includes storms, gale force winds, heatwave and dense fog - all can have a serious impact on our day to day life.

Flooding

Flooding can happen without warning.

Over 25,000 people in Staffordshire live in properties that are at risk of flooding. The Environment Agency and Local Authorities undertake a wide range of activities to reduce the risk of flooding to people and properties but it is still important for you to prepare yourself as much as possible. The Staffordshire Resilience Forum has prepared the Staffordshire Emergency Flood Plan, a multi-agency plan to help responders deal with flooding.

Be prepared – create a Personal Flood Plan

A Flood Plan helps you prepare for a flood before it happens, but can also help you respond quickly should a flood occur.

Action: Download your personal plan from www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods

Are you at risk and do you know what to do before, during and after flooding?

Find out if you are at risk of river flooding and what to do, at: www.environment-agency.co.uk/flood or by calling Floodline on **0845 988 1188**. Flood updates are also available on Teletext Page 159, BBC Ceefax Page 419 and Digital Ceefax Page 405 and on local weather, news and travel bulletins.

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Plan for Any Emergency

Make sure that you:

- Prepare an Emergency Pack of essential items
- Check your insurance – Does it cover flooding? Does it replace damaged items with new ones (i.e. 'new for old'?) Does it have a limit on repairs?
- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water mains.
- Know what you can move to safety now, e.g. furniture and electrical items, and what you could move in a flood.
- Make a list of useful numbers. Here's a few more can be found on pages 24 and 25.

- Environment Agency Floodline **0845 988 1188**
- Quickdial number for your community's Flood Warning (obtainable through Floodline).
- Insurance company 24-hour number and policy number
- Local radio station frequency for news alerts and weather updates (see page 8)
- Family and neighbours
- Bank phone number and details
- Work phone numbers
- Doctor's surgery
- Staffordshire Police Non Emergency Number – 0300 123 44 55

- Never enter floodwater – on foot, on a bicycle or in a vehicle. It may be contaminated; it could be deep and it could contain hidden dangers, eg, open drains.



Think about buying flood protection products:

- Sandbags are held by the Local Authorities for the use of the Emergency Services only. You can buy sandbags at builders' merchants and most DIY centres six bags are needed to keep a 20cm depth of water from entering a standard width doorway. Place bags in layers.
- Flood boards – These fix to frames around windows and doors.
- Plastic covers to seal airbricks – These should be fixed over airbricks and other vents.
- Flood skirts – These are designed to wrap around a property to prevent flood water from entering.

Visit www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk for more information.