

November 2018 – Flooding and adverse weather

Through November Surrey Prepared is taking a look at how to prepare for challenging weather, including the threat of flooding. Search #SurreyPrepared for any tips you may have missed.

We will also be supporting the Met Office 'Weather Ready' campaign, which will be launched on 5 November 2018 and the [Floods Destroy](#) campaign from the Environment Agency.

Adverse Weather / Flooding

1. Could your property be at risk of flooding? You can check in less time than it takes to make a cup of tea. #SurreyPrepared <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>
2. Free flooding alerts are available via text, phone or email. Have you signed up? #SurreyPrepared <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>
3. 5.2 million homes in the UK are at risk of flooding – is yours one of them? Check your risk of flooding here: https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk/?utm_campaign=floodsdestroy17&utm_source=Facebook%20National&utm_medium=Social&utm_content=House%20image #SurreyPrepared
4. Having a flood plan ensures you and your family know what to do if there's a flood. The Environment Agency has some great advice to help you get started. #SurreyPrepared <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding>
5. What would you put in an emergency bag? Invaluable, whatever reason you need to evacuate. Check out the #SurreyPrepared website for some suggestions. Whatever you choose, keep it somewhere accessible! <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/preparing-for-flooding>
6. Taking some time to identify and label the mains supplies in your home (gas, water and electricity) can save valuable time in an emergency. Make sure you can turn them off if needed. #SurreyPrepared <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/preparing-for-flooding>
7. [Poll] How many centimetres of floodwater do you think it takes to move a car? #SurreyPrepared 30cm 50cm 100cm

Answer: according to the Environment Agency website just 30cm of flood water can move a family-size car and it takes even less to move a smaller, lighter car. Driving through floodwater is the highest cause of death during flooding. Please don't risk it! #SurreyPrepared

Riparian Rights / responsibilities:

1. Do you know what is possessed by a riparian owner? Those who own land situated adjacent to any watercourse. A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel which water flows through, such as a river, stream or ditch. #SurreyPrepared

(0201 Responsibilities.jpg)

2. If your land boundary is along a watercourse, then you're responsible for maintenance up to the centre of the channel. The landowner on the other side is responsible for their half. If a watercourse flows through your land, you're responsible for all maintenance. #SurreyPrepared (0202 Ownership of watercourse.jpg)

3. Ensuring ditches on your land are clear is essential to help prevent flooding. Don't put it off. You can find guidance on what to do here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem/drainage-and-flooding/living-next-to-a-watercourse-your-rights-and-responsibilities> #SurreyPrepared

4. If a watercourse flows through your land, then it's your responsibility to maintain it properly. #SurreyPrepared

(0204 Watercourse.jpg)

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While digging out those warmer clothes and winter footwear it is also worth taking a little bit of time to ensure you are prepared for any difficulties the weather may bring. Surrey Prepared have a few ideas, which could make all the difference in an emergency.

- **Sign up for [weather warnings and flood alerts](#)** – it is really easy to do and they are free!
- **Ensure you know where all the mains supplies for your home are located** (water, gas and electricity) and how to turn them off quickly if necessary.
- **Consider adding your details to the [Priority Services Register](#)**. If you or a loved one might need additional support during an emergency, being on the relevant register means the right people know to find you to offer that assistance.
- **Check out [Message in a Bottle](#)** – this simple scheme, organised by the Lions Club, suggests adding your medical details to a small container which is stored in the fridge. Paramedics and police are aware of this scheme and, should there be an emergency, will have access to vital details easily.
- **Pack a bag of essential items** – medication, insurance documents, and identity documents.
- **Download a first aid app to your Smart Phone** – such as the free app from the [Red Cross](#).

You can find more information via the Surrey Prepared website:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared

(0301 Message in a Bottle)