

SUMMARY INFORMATION

FLOOD PLANNING AND RESPONSE - ROLE, DUTIES AND ACTIONS

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper summarises the role of Nottinghamshire County Council Emergency Planning Team in co-ordinating the County Councils response to flooding. The paper also highlights the process involved and the specific actions Nottinghamshire County Council takes in response to and recovery from flooding.
- 1.2 Major flooding is comparatively rare in Nottinghamshire, but does occur from time to time. The most recent occurrence was in November 2000, and that experience led to the preparation of the Nottinghamshire **Management Protocol for Multi-Agency Floods Response**.
- 1.3 The rivers that give rise to fluvial flooding in Nottinghamshire are the Rivers Trent, Devon, Erewash, Idle and Soar. It should also be noted that the River Trent north of Newark is subject to tidal flooding.

The historical evidence points to regular flooding with the most severe flood events occurring in:

- 1900's
- 1947
- 1977
- 2000

The main areas at risk from flooding are:

- Beeston / Attenborough
- West Bridgford
- Colwick
- Holme Pierrepont
- Numerous villages such as Gunthorpe and Hoveringham between Nottingham and Newark
- Newark

- 1.4 Flash Flooding can also occur in any area due to intensive localised storms leading to blocked drains and flooding from roads. Recent Flash flooding events in Nottinghamshire have highlighted that this type of flooding could becoming more commonplace due to the increase in localised intensive rainfall.

During the Summer of 2004 several Flash Flooding incidents occurred:

- July 2004 – Yorke Drive in Farndon.
- August 2004 – Jericho Rd, Balderton Newark.
- August 2004 – Flash Flooding of Newark Showground leading to evacuation of site.

2.0 Legislation / Duties

2.1 The Civil Contingencies Act , 2004.

The Civil Contingencies Act, 2004 has placed the following duties on Category 1 organisations:

- Assess local risks, including the development and maintenance of a Community Risk Register, and use this to inform emergency planning;
- Put in place emergency plans;
- Put in place Business Continuity Management arrangements;
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters (such as the Community Risk Register) and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency;
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination;
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency; and
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management. (Local Authorities only).

Those covered by the duties at present are Local Authorities, Government agencies, Emergency Services, most NHS organisations.

2.2 Local Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group

The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Risk Assessment Working Group has been tasked with identifying risks, assessing those risks and developing a process for informing local planning arrangements. Work has been underway for some time to progress these tasks.

The aim of the group is to provide a 'strategic' level analysis of those risks facing Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. It does not cover exactly what are the risks relating to a particular address. For example, the group looks at the risk of major forest fire, widespread flooding or an epidemic of contagious disease across the county as a whole.

2.3 The Lead Agency – Environment Agency

The Environment Agency are the lead agency in terms of flood risk as they have the responsibility for the maintenance and building of flood defences on main watercourses, issuing flood warnings and are the experts in identifying areas at risk.

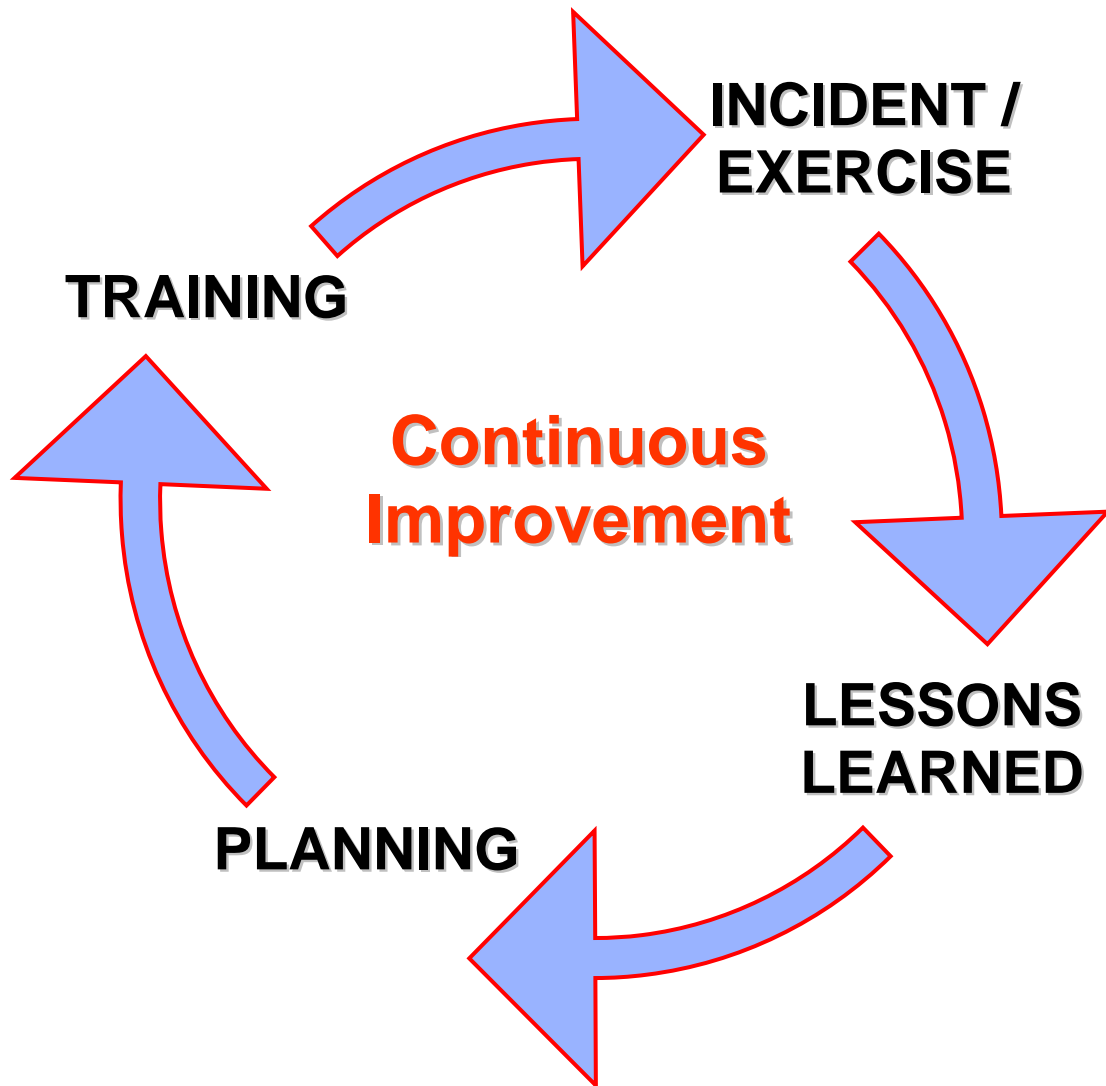
2.4 Nottinghamshire County Council - "Duty of Care"

Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty of care role for all of its communities in Nottinghamshire. The council's role is ultimately to support the community through all phases of an emergency from response through to recovery.

3.0 Flood Response Emergency Planning in Nottinghamshire

3.1 Multi-agency Floods Response Plan

The Floods Response Protocol was written after the 2000 floods and has been further developed up to the present day. The plan is updated according to the following process:



The plan is also updated annually and has a program of improvements scheduled.

Other plans that the Emergency Plans that supplement the Floods Plan are:

- Rest Centre Plan
- Emergency Transport Plan
- Multi-Agency Media Plan

3.2 Environment Agency Local Flood Warning Plan

The Multi-Agency Floods Response Plan also supplements the Environment Agency Local Flood Warning plan which highlights the areas that are at risk from flooding and the flood warning arrangements.

3.3 Planning Groups

The Environment Agency chair and facilitate the Local Flood Warning Plan meeting which is held every 6 months. The intention is to get together all of the appropriate agencies and to update them of any changes to flood

warnings and organisational changes. It is also useful for the group to comment on operational plans.

In the future flooding will become a capability issues which will mean the development of work that the current group does can be expanded into areas of plan development, training, exercising and awareness raising.

3.4 Development in the Floodplain

The Local Resilience Forum has recently put together a Draft Generic Response to developers who wish to develop in the floodplain and come to the Emergency Services and Local Authorities emergency planning teams for comments on their proposals. The generic LRF response is there to advise that any development should not be permitted in the floodplain unless it meets certain criteria highlighted in the LRF generic response. (see Appendix1).

3.5 Nottinghamshire County Council Response Role

As highlighted in the Multi-Agency Floods Response Plan Nottinghamshire County Council provides the following:

- 24 hour Duty-Officer role
- Support emergency services
- Dissemination of E.A. flood warnings
- Sandbags Policies
- Road closures
- Providing Rest Centre
- providing Emergency Transport (buses)
- Providing Craft for water rescue
- Public information / Media liaison.

4.0 Training / Exercising

4.1 All Training Events and Exercises

After the major floods in 2000 the multi-agency floods response protocol was issued after lessons learned from the event.

In October 2002 the Multi Agency Training day called “Turning the Tide” was organised to raise awareness of the floods response protocol.

In October 2003 the Environment Agency led a Multi-Agency Exercise “Lifeline” which the emergency planning team in Nottinghamshire supported and contributed to the day.

In September 2004 the Nottinghamshire County Council Emergency Planning Team supported the Newark and Sherwood District Council callout exercise.

In spring 2006 the Nottinghamshire Emergency Planning Team supported the Environment Department's "Emergency Response Team" training with the Environment Agency.

4.2 Plans that support the Multi-Agency Floods Response Protocol

The Rest Centre Protocol would be activated in response to flooding which is annually exercised. The last Rest Centre exercise was "Exercise Hemlock" in June 2006 at the Kimberley Leisure Centre.

The Emergency Transport Plan was issued in November 2004 and would be activated in response to a flooding incident. A callout exercise (Exercise Exodus) was co-ordinated from the Emergency Centre in May 2006 testing all the numbers in the plan.

The Multi-Agency Emergency Media plan would be activated in an Emergency, which was last tested in November 2004

4.3 Future Training Events / Exercises

In Late 2006 / Early 2007 a Nottinghamshire County Council internal training event / multi agency plan audit will be ran.

In summer 2007 it is hoped the Environment Agency will lead the Multi Agency Exercise "Lifeline 2", in which the Nottinghamshire County Council Emergency Planning Team will be heavily involved.

5.0 Engagement with Flood Risk Communities / Parish Councils

5.1 Parish Councils

Nottinghamshire County Council has recently supported the Environment Agency and Newark and Sherwood District Council in promoting community resilience via flood warden schemes and producing parish council emergency plans. We attended Parish Council meetings in all of the flood risk communities in Newark and Sherwood.

The bulk of these meetings occurred during Winter/Spring 2005.

The Nottinghamshire County Council are also in the process of producing an Emergency Plan Template for Parish Councils. The Draft template has been given to some parish councils at the Flood Warden Workshop whose comments will be fed into the plan.

5.2 Environment Agency Flood Warden Workshop

After the visits to flood risk communities the Environment Agency ran in collaboration with Newark and Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire

County Council, and the Emergency Services a Flood Warden Workshop in June 2005.

The aim was to bring together flood warden schemes to share best practice and was also a chance for them to listen to various presentations on the various roles and responsibilities of each organisation.

Due to the success of last years event the Environment Agency are running another workshop at county hall on September 6th.

5.3 Flood Fairs

Newark and Sherwood District Council ran a Flood Fair in September 2005. The aim of this was again for at risk communities to attend the event to learn more about flood risk and how to protect themselves from flooding. The event was also chance for the public to get an understanding of all of the roles and responsibilities of various organisations involved in responding to a flood emergency.

We supported this event by helping out with the planning, contributing to the cost of the event and by having a stand at the event.

6.0 Recovery from Flood Emergencies

6.1 Local Authority Responsibility

Local Authorities take the lead of the recovery phase once an emergency has gone past the initial response phase. The responsibility is passed on from the Police.

Responsibilities and Issues that need to be considered are:

- Formation of a Recovery Group
- Management of Finances
- Recovery of costs during response and recovery
- Information and Advice to community
- Lead the clean up and return to normality
- Support the community.

APPENDIX 1

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LRF **Proposed Generic Response to Planning Applications for development in the floodplain**

Where emergency planning officers and the emergency services are requested to provide comments on a Planning Application for a proposed development in the indicative floodplain (or where affected by flooded access) they can only support proposed mitigation measures that:

- **Do not increase the burden on the Emergency Services.**
The Emergency Services are in heavy demand during flood incidents so if the development will increase the burden on the Emergency Services the development should not go ahead. The Fire Safety Regulations state that “people should be able to evacuate by their own means” without support and aid from the emergency services
- **Do not require access via roads likely to be subject to flood water**
- **Are permanent or demountable flood defences that are sustainable** with a commuted sum for maintenance and that offer significant flood risk mitigation to the community as a whole or a significant part of that community
- **Do not cause detriment to other communities.**