





# Prepare your business for flooding

Resilience to Extreme Weather  
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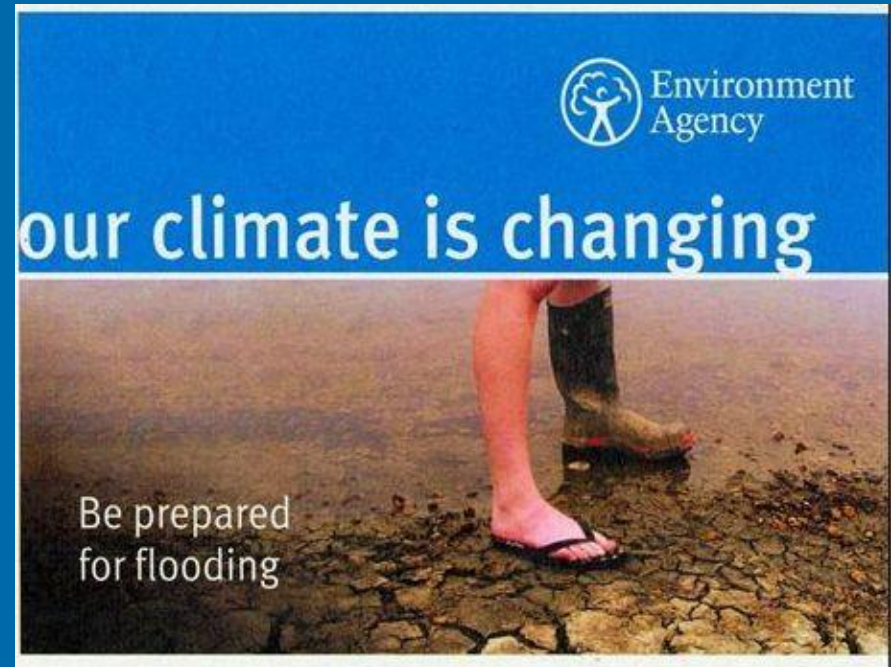
**Fact. Your business  
is more at risk from  
flooding than fire.**

# Introduction

- ➔ Flood risk management
- ➔ How do we reduce the risk of flooding?
- ➔ What can you do? Be flood prepared in 4 easy steps.
- ➔ Why prepare?
- ➔ I'm not at risk of flooding.
- ➔ Further/useful information
- ➔ Questions

# Flood risk management

- ➡ 1 in 6 properties at risk in England & Wales
- ➡ Over 2.5 million at risk from river & sea flooding
- ➡ Changes in climate will increase that risk



# How do we reduce the risk of flooding?



# Be flood prepared in 4 easy steps

1. Find out if you are risk of flooding
2. Sign up to receive free flood warnings
3. Prepare a flood plan
4. Protect your business

# Why prepare?

- ➔ Simple actions taken now can save considerable disruption should the worst happen.
- ➔ Significantly reduce financial losses, damage to property and business interruption.
- ➔ Not preparing can result in:
  - ➔ physical losses of property, materials and stock
  - ➔ significant business disruption
  - ➔ loss of customers
  - ➔ increased insurance premiums and excess
  - ➔ risk to employees
  - ➔ hefty recovery costs and financial debt
- ➔ Can you afford not to plan?



# 1. Find out if you are at risk

**Floodline**  
**0345 988 1188**

**0845 988 1188**

**FLOODS**  
**DESTROY**  
**DESTROY**  
**BE PREPARED**

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface. At the top left is the GOV.UK logo. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Environment and countryside >'. A left-hand navigation menu lists various categories, with 'Environment and countryside' highlighted in blue. The main content area is titled 'Flooding and extreme weather' and includes a sub-section 'A to Z' with the following links: 'Check flood warnings and river levels', 'Prepare for a flood and get help during and after', and 'Sign up for flood warnings (England and Wales)'. Below this, there is a 'Detailed guidance' section with a link for 'Flooding and coastal change'.

## 2. Sign up for flood warnings

- ➔ Free 24 hour service that sends warnings by phone, text, email, fax or pager to warn of flooding – make the most of service
- ➔ Who needs to receive the warnings?
- ➔ Keep your details up-to-date.



### FLOOD ALERT

#### What it means

Flooding is possible.  
Be prepared.

#### When it's used

Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.

#### What to do

- Be prepared to act on your flood plan.
- Prepare a flood kit of essential items.
- Monitor local water levels and the flood forecast on our website.



### FLOOD WARNING

#### What it means

Flooding is expected.  
Immediate action required.

#### When it's used

Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding.

#### What to do

- Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so.
- Put flood protection equipment in place.



### SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

#### What it means

Severe flooding.  
Danger to life.

#### When it's used

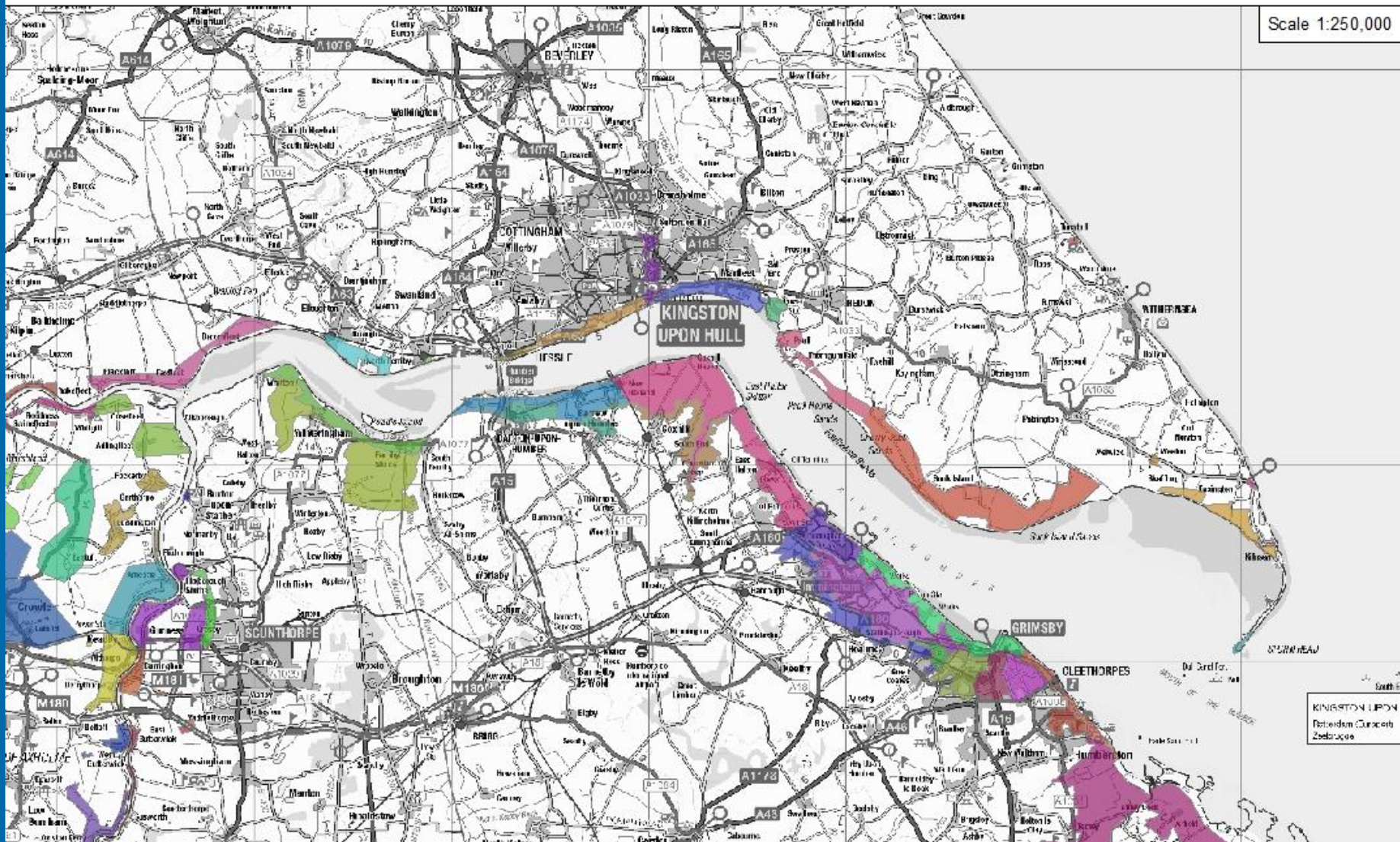
When flooding poses a significant threat to life.

#### What to do

- Stay in a safe place with a means of escape.
- Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home.
- Co-operate with the emergency services.
- Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

# Humber Tidal Flood Warnings - Created September 2014

Scale 1:250,000



KINGSTON UPON HULL  
Detention Capacity  
Zones

# 3. Prepare a flood plan

➔ What is a flood plan?

➔ What should it contain?

➔ How do I prepare a flood plan?

# What is a flood plan?

- ➔ Written document describing how your business will respond to a flood.
- ➔ Your strategy for reducing business disruption as a result of a flood.



# What should a flood plan contain?

➔ Will be specific to your business but it could include;

- ➔ Contact details
- ➔ A description or plan of the business
- ➔ Protective actions
- ➔ Staff safety
- ➔ Security procedures
- ➔ Flood insurance

➔ What will trigger you to act on the plan?

# How do I prepare a flood plan?

- ➔ Look at existing business policies – are they appropriate in the event of a flood?
- ➔ Environment Agency templates available.



## Suggested basic building materials to help protect your property

If materials are not needed, leave the relevant section blank

Materials	Used for	Items to protect / where to use	Storage location	Done
Sand and sand bags (unfilled), shovel	Creating flood barriers (used with plastic sheeting)			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tools – hammer, nails, saw	Boarding up doors, windows and openings, creating shelves			<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood – plywood, blocks of wood	Boarding up doors, windows and openings, creating shelves			<input type="checkbox"/>
Sturdy plastic sheeting	Sandbag barriers, pulling up around furniture and appliances			<input type="checkbox"/>
Strong plastic bags	Putting around legs of tables and chairs			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pallets	Raising stored stock above flood level			<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency power generator	Maintaining function of air conditioning units (can help dry out a building), running fridges and freezers, medical equipment if appropriate			<input type="checkbox"/>

# Finished your flood plan?

- ➔ Have you made staff aware of it?
- ➔ Have you tested it?
- ➔ Have you thought about reviewing and updating it? Frequency?
- ➔ Where will it be kept?
- ➔ Make it the norm, include in procedures.
  
- ➔ Make sure that you use it!!

## 4. Protecting your business

- ➔ Storage of stock and equipment?
- ➔ What flood products are suitable?
- ➔ Permanent or temporary?
- ➔ Where will the flood products be stored?
- ➔ Who will install them?
- ➔ How long will installation take?
- ➔ Is this detailed in your flood plan?

If you live in an area that is at risk of flooding, there are things you can do to reduce the damage that a flood can do to your home. The illustration below shows some examples.

### Electrical sockets

Raising electrical sockets, fuse boxes and associated wiring to at least 1.5 metres above ground floor level will limit the risk of them being damaged by water during a flood. You may be able to use them again once the water has receded and the electricity supply is restored. If rewiring, bring cables down the wall from the top to the raised socket so that cabling doesn't get affected. Controls and ventilation systems should also be well above floor level.

### TV and hi-fi

Mount your TV or hi-fi and speakers on the wall.

### Walls

Use lime-based plaster instead of gypsum on walls.

### Flood sacks

These are a lighter, modern version of sandbags. The sacks need to be soaked in water so they expand, then placed around the entrances to your home to protect against flood water. If they have not been in contact with contaminated water, they can be left to dry and shrink and can be reused. They take up little storage and can be cost-effective.

### Doors and windows

Install synthetic or waxed window frames and doors.

### Kitchen units and appliances

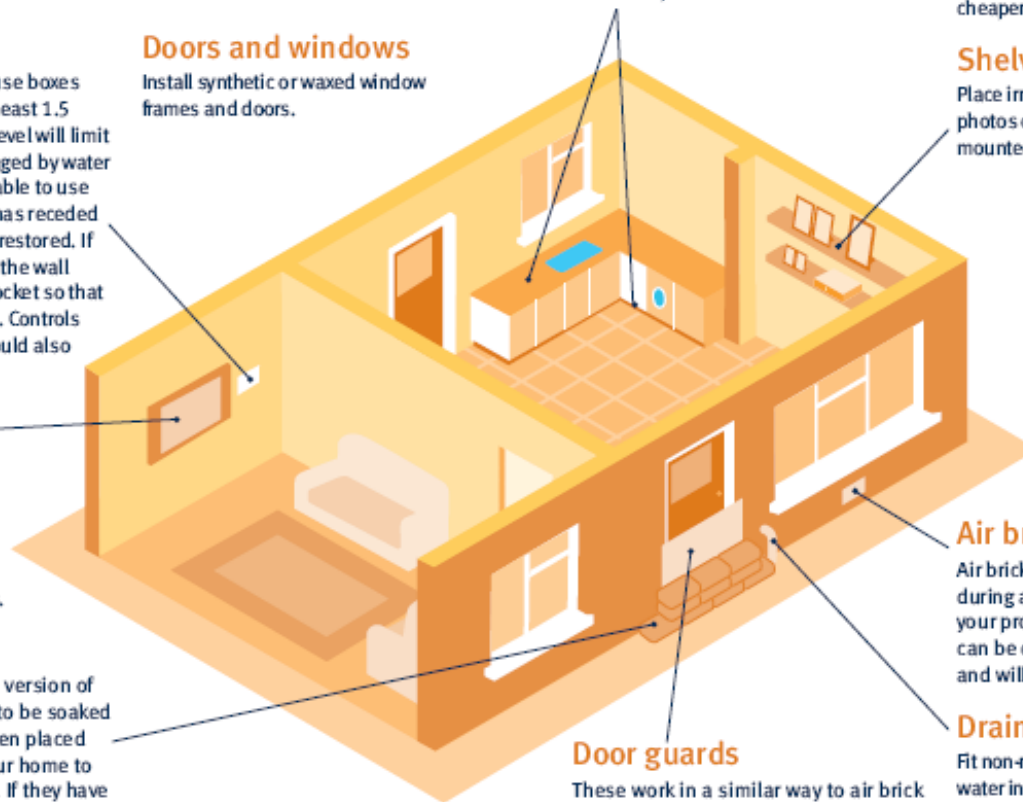
Fit stainless steel, plastic or solid wood kitchen units rather than chipboard. White goods such as fridges should be raised on plinths.

### Flooring

Lay ceramic tiles or rugs on your ground floor rather than carpets. Rugs can easily be removed and placed out of reach. Non-carpeted floors can be easier to clean once the water has subsided and are cheaper to replace.

### Shelving

Place irreplaceable items, such as family photos or treasured possessions, on high mounted shelves.



### Air brick covers

Airbricks are used for ventilation, but during a flood, they can let water into your property. The covers are airtight, can be easily attached to the air bricks and will prevent water entering.

### Drains and pipes

Fit non-return valves to all drains and water inlet pipes.

### Door guards

These work in a similar way to air brick covers but on a larger scale. They can be placed across the bottom of your external doors to hold back low levels of water.

# Not at risk?

- Surface water?
- Disruption to transport networks
- May have staff living in flood risk areas
- May have suppliers based in flood risk areas



# Further/useful information

- ➔ Would your business stay afloat? leaflet
- ➔ Environment Agency – [gov.uk/flood](http://gov.uk/flood)
- ➔ Floodline - 0345 988 1188 / 0845 988 1188
- ➔ Local EA Flood Resilience Teams (Rachael & Kim)
- ➔ Local EA Twitter accounts
  - ➔ North Bank @JonKnightEA  
@EnvAgencyYNE
  - ➔ South Bank @LincsOpsEA
- ➔ Met Office - [metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)
- ➔ National Flood Forum - [nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk)
- ➔ Defra guidance - [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)
- ➔ Humber Local Resilience Forum – [heps.gov.uk](http://heps.gov.uk)

# Summary

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Any questions?