

HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN PREPARE YOU FOR FLOODING

With the rapid increase in technological advances and the rising number of services they can provide, more and more of us use technology for everyday life and for work. But have you ever thought about how technology can help people become more aware of their flood risk and enable them to become more prepared?

Environment Agency Maps

The Environment Agency offers a long-term flood risk map for England and a flood map for planning. These show if your property has a low, medium, or high flood risk from rivers, reservoirs, the sea, or surface water, and which flood zone (1, 2, or 3) it's in. Check your property's flood risk at: www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk.



Telemetry

Telemetry systems like water level sensors, cameras, and alarms provide 24/7 monitoring of watercourses, allowing individuals and communities to respond quickly when levels rise or report blockages. These systems can serve as an early trigger to activate a flood plan.



Flood alarms

Flood alarms can be installed inside or outside your property at a point where rising water would first make contact, such as along a garden wall. When water reaches the sensor, it sends an alert to a control box inside your property. The box then sounds an audible alarm and automatically dials your selected phone numbers, delivering a pre-recorded flood warning message. This alert can act as a trigger to implement your flood plan and start setting up any temporary flood resilience measures.



Social Media

Social media is a powerful tool for raising awareness about flooding and preparedness. It allows for:

- Quick communication with large groups via platforms like emails, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Flood Action Groups to create Facebook and Twitter pages to keep the community updated on flood events and share preparedness tips.
- Community members to discuss local flood risks and solutions.
- Following accounts such as @MetOffice and @EnvAgency on Twitter for regular updates on weather forecasts, warnings, and current flood situations.

These platforms help keep communities informed and connected during flood events, allowing for a quicker and more coordinated response.



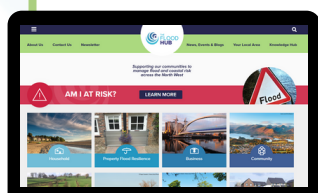
Environment Agency Flood Warning Service

The Environment Agency provides a free flood warning service for people in at-risk areas, sending flood alerts and warnings by phone, text, or email. This service gives you more time to prepare for a flood and keeps you informed about flood risks and local river and sea conditions. You can sign up for alerts at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings.



Websites

Websites like The Flood Hub offer a central resource for individuals, businesses, and communities in the North West. It provides easy access to a range of information and tools designed to help improve flood resilience and preparedness. The platform is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to understand and manage flood risks.



Apps and smart phones

In addition to popular social media apps, many specialised apps provide valuable updates specifically for weather and emergencies, such as floods. Apps like the Met Office app deliver accurate weather forecasts and alert users to any issued weather warnings, helping them know what to expect and prepare accordingly. These apps can be a reliable resource during extreme weather events, offering timely and localised information to keep users safe and informed.