

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?

1 Environment Agency Maps



The Environment Agency has created a long-term flood risk map for England and a flood map for planning. You can find out whether your property has a low, medium or high risk of flooding from rivers, a reservoir, the sea or from surface water and whether your property is in flood zone 1, 2 or 3.

3 Flood alarms



Flood alarms can be placed at a point inside or outside of your property where water can reach before it can cause any damage, for example, a garden wall. As soon as water hits the sensor, an electronic alert is sent to a control box located inside of your property. From this, the box sounds an audible alarm and begins to dial your selected telephone numbers and delivers a pre-recorded flood warning message. This message can act as a trigger for your flood plan and to begin installing your temporary property flood resilience measures.

5 Environment Agency Flood Warning Service

The Environment Agency has a free of charge flood warning service that enables people in flood warning areas to receive flood alerts and warnings by telephone, text and email. This gives you more time to prepare for a flood. Flood alerts and warnings are a great way to keep up to date with the flood risk and the river and sea conditions in your area, allowing you to be pre-warned of any risks towards your property.

ALERT **FLOOD WARNING** **SEVERE FLOOD WARNING**

7 Apps and smart phones



As well as popular social media apps, many others can provide useful information and updates tailored specifically for the weather and emergencies, such as a flood event. Apps such as the Met Office provide weather forecasts and information on any weather warnings that have been issued and what to expect during those conditions.

2 Telemetry



Telemetry systems such as water level sensors, cameras or warning systems allow watercourses to be monitored 24/7. They can be used by both individuals and communities to respond efficiently when levels are high and to report any blockages. Telemetry systems can act as a trigger to put a flood plan into action.

4 Social Media



Social media can be very useful for raising awareness about flooding and preparedness. It allows:

- Quick communication to large groups of people at one time, for example, via emails, WhatsApp messages, Facebook and Twitter.
- Flood Action Groups to set up Facebook and Twitter pages to update the community on flood events and to raise awareness on how to be more prepared.
- Members of the community to discuss issues which contribute towards the area's flood risk.

Following specific hashtags and accounts such as the @MetOffice and the @EnvAgency on Twitter can provide you with regular updates about weather forecasts, weather warnings and a current flood situation if one is occurring.

6 Websites

Websites such as The Flood Hub provide a one stop shop for all things flood related for individuals, businesses and communities across the North West. It provides quick and easy access to an abundance of information and resources to help anybody interested in flooding to become more flood resilient.

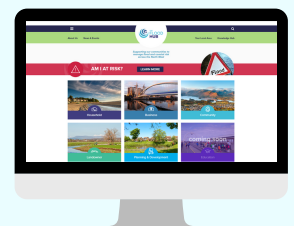


Image: Environment Agency Flood risk map for planning.