

A quick guide for Operational Managers on weather and flood products

The purpose of this quick guide is to list the weather and flood products available to operational managers involved in the on-site operations to flood emergencies. Your response role may be solely within your respective organisations or be part of the multi-agency response implementing instructions and actions in the tactical plan. This quick guide will help you understand the three key products listed below, what they mean and where to go for further information.

National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS)

- Weather warnings are produced by the Met Office as part of the NSWWS and cover all main weather types: rain, snow, ice, wind and fog.
- Warnings are provided for the UK at a county level. They are available to the public and all Category 1 and 2 responders, providing a daily overview and guidance over a five day period.
- Warnings allow responders to prepare themselves and their services to withstand the impacts of severe weather and also put themselves in a position of readiness to support communities at risk.
- Warnings use both likelihood (chance) and impact (consequence) to assess weather conditions, presented in a 4x4 box risk matrix.
- Warnings are delivered by text and email to mobile phones, on the Met Office website, through Hazard Manager, and also by the Met Office smart phone app.

Flood Guidance Statement (FGS)

- The FGS is produced by the Flood Forecasting Centre, a joint venture between the Met Office and Environment Agency. It covers all sources of natural flooding: coastal/tidal, river, surface water and groundwater. These can occur in combination, a common feature of major floods.
- The FGS covers England and Wales at county level and is available to all Category 1 and 2 responders. The FGS presents an overview of developing flood risk.
- It allows responders to anticipate and plan their response to developing flood situations, for example, deployment of teams and strategically moving equipment around the country.
- Both the NSWWS and FGS share the same 4 x 4 box risk matrix and risk levels. Note: the impacts are labelled minor, moderate, significant and severe in the FGS.
- The FGS is sent by email to mobile phones and desktops, through Hazard Manager, and a public Three Day Flood Forecast version on the Environment Agency website.

Flood Warnings

- Flood warnings are provided by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales to warn people and properties at risk from either rivers or the sea. In some limited locations warnings for groundwater flooding are also provided.
- There are three types of warning that explain what people can expect and what they should do:
 - **Flood Alert** – flooding is possible. Be prepared.
 - **Flood Warning** – flooding is expected. Immediate action required.
 - **Severe Flood Warning** – severe flooding is expected. Danger to life. These are rarely issued.

Further information

- Joint Responder Training pack produced by the FFC (containing training presentations, desktop scenarios, user guides, 2012 case studies, e-learning, wall poster, trainer guidance, a capability framework, training programme template and training record sheet). Contact your local LRF representative for information on this pack and any planned training.
- Your colleagues in emergency planning will also be a useful source of information.