

Flood Warden Groups - supporting flood resilience

0919

Who are flood wardens?

Flood Wardens are individuals or groups who live and/or work in communities at risk of flooding. They are the eyes and ears on the ground for the Incident Room, able to report back on river levels and affected areas with the benefit of local knowledge and experience of flooding in that particular area. The Incident Room will call the Flood Wardens for information, and the Flood Wardens are given a dedicated number they can call to reach the incident room when it is open. This means they can have access to the latest forecasts. Flood wardens can help and prepare those in the local community that are at risk from flooding. They are a vital link between residents, local government and the Environment Agency.

What do flood wardens do?

During a flooding event

- Keep our duty officers informed of the river levels
- Make sure local people are aware of the situation and encourage them to take action
- Help identify and support the most vulnerable people in their community
- Co-operate with the emergency services
- Put a flood action plan into place (if available)
- Keep a log of events and actions taken
- Take photographs of flooding (where safe to do so)
- Report flooding or issues such as blockages likely to lead to flooding

At other times

- Help to raise awareness of flooding issues within the local community
- Report issues such as blockages of bridges or damage to flood defences
- Encourage local people to register for a free flood warning service (if available)
- Ensure people are aware of Floodline and know how to access the information available
- Promote self-help within the community
- Some wardens attend parish council /local meetings to ensure flooding issues retain a high profile
- Some groups hold meetings to discuss flooding issues and to try to influence relevant organisations
- Some groups put together a flood action plan to help to reduce the effects of flooding

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

What are flood wardens not expected to do?

- Help residents to move their belongings
- Help the Environment Agency or Local authority staff operate or repair flood defences
- Enter floodwater - remember just 15cm (6") of water can sweep you off your feet

Our first concern is that your health and safety is not compromised.

How can we support you?

- Provide you with flood warden kit which includes a high visibility vest and torch
- Support with any flood awareness events you may wish to hold in your locality
- Provide you with copies of our publications to use
- The opportunity to visit our Area Incident Room
- An invitation to our free annual Flood Warden Seminar
- Copies of our quarterly newsletter
- Support with writing a community emergency flood plan

I'd like to volunteer as a flood warden. What should I do next?

Contact the Flood Resilience Team on yorkshirefloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

What is the Flood Warning Service?

We offer a free flood warning service in areas at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. The Flood Warning Service gives you an advance warning in your area by telephone, mobile, text or e-mail. Not all areas at risk of flooding are covered by the service. To find out if flood warnings are available in your area, call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or check on line at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

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