

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Risk and guidance

Do not place yourself at unnecessary risk of injury or harm. Assess risk at all times

Always follow the advice and guidance of the Emergency Services

Always follow the advice and guidance set out by the Environment Agency in their booklet (*What to do*)

Always follow the advice and guidance on your Flood Plan safety sheet

Personal safety and wellbeing

A General safety outside

Always wear a high visibility vest while carrying out flood warden activities.

Dress sensibly for the weather conditions, with waterproofs and sturdy and waterproof footwear.

Take your flood warden kit with you (High vis jacket, mobile phone (if appropriate), contact information, torch, hand sanitizer, fresh drinking water, notepads and pen, camera (if possible))

Always ensure you are visible. Use a torch if working at night or in low light conditions.

Never work alone. Always work in pairs or small groups. Maintain visual contact with others at all times (for routine checking and maintenance for debris on road drains, this is desirable rather than necessary).

Do not enter flood water.

Do not attempt to lift gully grilles.

Take extra care when working on roads and be mindful of traffic and other vehicles at all times. Remember that not all vehicles have motors.

Do not attempt to enter any areas that have been cordoned off by the Emergency Services.

Do not attempt to drive on any roads that have been closed by the Emergency Services.

Take extra care when walking on wet, slippery or uneven ground.

Be alert to the possibility of falling objects, especially in strong winds.

Do not operate any equipment or machinery unless you have been trained or authorised to do so.

Always wash your hands after coming into contact with flood water.

B Working with others

Always stay in contact with your warden and with your local phone contact.

Always inform either your warden/phone contact or the co-ordinator if there is a problem or a change in situation (for example, if a particular route is flooded).

Always make sure somebody knows where you are going and what you are going to do.

Do not attempt to unblock any drains, culverts or waterways yourself unless trained or authorised to do so.

Working on people's property

Do not do anything unless you are given permission by the property owner (unless there is a medical emergency).

Say if you do not want to do something you are asked to (for whatever reason).

Do not lift any object that is too heavy for you.

Do not enter into confrontational situations with others.

Do not force anybody to do anything they don't want to.

Do not operate or install any individual property protection equipment, such as flood gates or sand bags, unless you have been trained or authorised to do so