

Flood Risk Management Activity: Flood Response Decision Making

This multiple choice activity will get you to consider the actions you would take in the event of a flood.

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You will need:

- The multiple choice flood response grid (attached)
- The 'sign up for flood warnings' link in the bottom right hand corner of www.floodready.co.uk.

Now you need to:

- Read the following:

Flooding is when a river overflows its banks and spills out onto its floodplain.

The short-term impact of floods can be catastrophic, but despite this people commonly live on floodplains. In the United Kingdom over 12% of the population lives on river floodplains or in areas which are at risk from coastal flooding. It is estimated that there are 2.4 million properties already built on floodplains.

The Environment Agency publishes online maps to show if your home is at risk from flooding. It uses two colours, dark blue and light blue. The dark blue colouring shows areas where there is a one per cent (1 in 100) or greater chance of a flood happening each year. The light blue colouring shows areas where there is up to a 0.1 per cent (1 in 1000) chance of a flood occurring each year.

- Enter your postcode in the Local Flood Information section. Investigate the likelihood of flooding in your home. Is your school likely to flood?
- Using the grid on the page below, circle the option you are most likely to take from each of the three options given for every situation.
- Discuss your answers with your friends/family/teacher to see how flood safe you are (answers are given on the final page for parents/teachers).

Situation	Option A	Option B	Option C
1. You are moving into a new house in the village on our homepage. What do you do when you first move in?	Get your new home insured against flood damage.	Ask your neighbours whether they have insurance to decide whether it is worth getting insurance.	Decide not to get insurance as you should be safe, living at the edge of the flood risk area.
2. There has been sustained heavy rainfall for two weeks and the local river is running at a high level.	Listen to the local radio and watch local news programmes for flood warnings.	Start to get your flood safety kit together just in case you need it.	Go down to the river yourself every day to check whether the water levels are getting higher.
3. Water levels in the river continue to rise and more rain is predicted.	You sit down with your family and agree a flood plan of action.	You do nothing, as the river has levees at the sides to contain extra water in the channel.	Move valuables upstairs and get some sandbags from the local DIY store.
4. The local authority issues a severe flash flood warning for the next three days for your area.	You go to the supermarket and buy one month's worth of food and prepare for the worst at home.	You leave immediately for your mother's house* in a nearby village until the flood warning is over.	You put sandbags around the doors and turn off all electrical equipment before leaving for your mother's house with your family.
5. The levees have failed. You start driving to your mother's house when you run into rising flood waters and the car stalls and won't restart. The water is about 30cm deep.	You try several times to restart your car before abandoning it and going back home, taking the family upstairs to await help.	You immediately get out of the car, take your suitcases out of the car and move to higher ground away from the rising flood waters.	You immediately get your family out of the car, leaving your suitcases in the boot and get to higher ground. You call your mother to pick you up.
6. You arrive home after one week to find your home still knee deep in water. What do you do?	Start to clean up the ground floor and check whether electrical equipment is still working.	Decide that it is too unsafe to stay. Return when the flood waters have reduced further.	In your normal clothes, have a look at the damage to help decide whether anything can be done.
7. The emergency services have told you it is safe to return to your home to start cleaning up. The water is only 6cm deep. What do you do first?	Put on rubber gloves, waterproof clothes and cover any cuts or scratches to prevent infection from sewage in the water.	Get a qualified electrician to check your electrical appliances before attempting to switch them on.	Open all doors and windows to let out stagnant air and water.

* Your mother's house is on higher ground.

Answers:

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. A