

Health and Safety Briefing Note

HSBN Number 065: Safe Working in Floods

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Distribution: Wholesale Waste, Wholesale Water

Working around floods or fast moving water presents hazards and risks to TW staff, our contractors and volunteers. We have seen over the past few days an excessive amount of rainfall leading to severe flooding across our business. A number of flood alerts and warnings continue to be in place across our region.

Action required

Zero Compromise - It is essential that you do not place yourselves, your teams or anyone at risk. Managers need to ensure that their personnel and sites are adequately prepared for water ingress due to flooding. In addition, all managers should make adequate preparations to deal with the presence of flood water and brief their teams, contractors and any volunteers on the dangers this brings.

- Hold a 15 minute stand down with your respective teams – Zero Compromise - Do not place yourselves or others at risk.
 - Think about People: Are they all trained, competent and briefed on what needs to be done?
 - Think about Place: Is anyone potentially at risk? If so STOP! Move to a place of safety and think about what to do next.
 - Think about Planning: Do you have all the equipment, tools, PPE you need and have you got a robust emergency plan?
- Avoid walking or driving through flood water. As little as 6 inches (15 centimetres) of moving water can make you fall.
 - If you have to walk in water, wherever possible, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
 - Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
 - Use your senses – The speed of flows can be deceptive, listen – if it's noisy, it's moving fast! Look – is there debris in the water – if so is it moving quickly?
 - Be aware that flooding can cause manhole covers to come off, causing falls.
 - Keep children and vulnerable people out of flood water.
 - Don't walk on sea defences or riverbanks.
 - Take care or avoid crossing bridges when water levels are high.
 - Take care when crossing culverts as they are dangerous when flooded.
 - Look out for other hazards such as fallen power lines and trees and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
 - Wash your hands thoroughly if you touch flood water as it may be contaminated.

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Briefing to all employees

Zero Compromise - It is essential that you do not place yourselves, your teams or anyone at risk. Managers need to ensure that their personnel and sites are adequately prepared for water ingress due to flooding. In addition, all managers should make adequate preparations to deal with the presence of flood water and brief their teams, contractors and any volunteers on the dangers this brings.

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- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
- Use your senses – The speed of flows can be deceptive, listen – if it's noisy, it's moving fast! Look – is there debris in the water – if so is it moving quickly?
- Be aware that flooding can cause manhole covers to come off, causing falls.
- Keep children and vulnerable people out of flood water.
- Don't walk on sea defences or riverbanks.
- Take care or avoid crossing bridges when water levels are high.
- Take care when crossing culverts as they are dangerous when flooded.
- Look out for other hazards such as fallen power lines and trees and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Wash your hands thoroughly if you touch flood water as it may be contaminated.

It is essential that all employees take a responsible attitude towards maintaining their health and safety at work and do not expose themselves to the risk of physical injury or illness due to the effects of working on or near flood water.

We the undersigned have been made aware of the contents of this briefing. If we are unable to carry out the work safely, we agree that we must immediately stop work and inform our manager/supervisor.

Date	Name	Signature
Manager/supervisor's signature:		Date:

Please continue on another copy for additional employee