

Information

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For Members

From:	Paula Hewitt
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To:	Somerset County Council Members

Preparing for winter flooding – guidance for residents and businesses

While drought conditions may have dominated headlines this year the focus is back on flooding preparedness as we head into the winter months.

Somerset councils have combined to offer the following advice and guidance to help residents and businesses reduce the impacts of flooding. We hope this can assist you when you are dealing with peoples' concerns and queries over the coming months. Please feel free to share the information widely.

What can I do?

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring especially at this time of year can make a real difference in your home, business and community.

One of the first things to check is whether your property is at [risk of flooding](#).

We also recommend taking precautionary measures and purchasing your own sandbags in case of flooding emergencies. If sandbags are not available, you can use:

- rolled-up mats or carpets
- bags of garden compost
- pillow cases filled with soil (don't overfill them)
- timber boards (possibly screwed to door frames and sealed with mastic)

What to do during a flood

There is information to help you on what to do during a flood on the [Somerset Prepared website](#). The key point is to always stay safe, in an immediate flood emergency or where there is a risk to life, follow the advice of the emergency services.

Protect yourself from future flooding

It is advisable to plan how you'll respond to a flood. Information and plans are available to help you [plan ahead](#).

We also encourage you to download the '[Prepare. Act. Survive.](#)' [flood plan](#) to help reduce the impact of flooding.

You can find up to date information on flood warnings by visiting the [flood warnings](#) page on the Government's website.

Flooding and roads – key information

It's important to ensure drains and gullies are clear during the autumn and winter months – Somerset County Council as the Highways authority routinely inspects these but leaves and other debris can accumulate rapidly so members of the public have a key role to play.

If you spot a problem with a drain or gully, or any issue on the highway you can report it easily and quickly here - [Report a problem on the road \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#).

Heavy rain and flooding present a clear and present danger to drivers – road users are urged **NOT** to attempt to drive across flooded roads as it is not possible to estimate the depth of the water reliably.

A number of Somerset roads have flood gates in place to prevent access in the event of flooding – information can be found here - [Emergency road closure gates – Travel Somerset](#).

It's vital to prepare for wet conditions if you have to travel and to proceed with extreme caution if you get caught in flood conditions – you can find information and advice here: [Adverse weather conditions \(somersetroadsafety.org\)](#)

For more info contact:	Email: Flooding@somerset.gov.uk
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