

## How to stay flood prepared

You can sign up for flood warnings by phone, text or email [HERE](#). You can also see **current flood warnings and alerts** [HERE](#). The graphic below explains what each level means.

You could also follow [@EnvAgencyMids](#) and [@EnvAgency](#) on Twitter and find us at [@northkestevenc](#) to stay informed

As a community, you could form a **community emergency plan** which can help set out how to respond in a flood. It's done in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum. Find more [HERE](#).

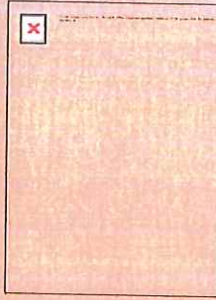
Keep hold of the link to the **Fix My Street** function on the Lincolnshire County Council website [HERE](#). It's the best place to report floods in the first instance.

Alternatively, in a flood you can call the Lincolnshire County Council Floodline on **01522 782082** but be aware of the possible volume of calls. These calls are logged and passed to a Highways officer to investigate, with priority given to callers who cannot self-help first.

In the event of a flood you can also call the Environment Agency's national Floodline, open 24/7 on **0345 988 1188**.

Save the [LRF website](#) and follow its [social media channels](#), and remember that local media outlets including [BBC Radio Lincolnshire](#) will help in providing updates.

## Recovering from the floods and rain of Storm Babet



We are still monitoring the situation and the impact of any further rain expected over the coming days.

Water levels are generally improving, although many rivers are running at bank-full and may do for some time. Further rain is due over the weekend, however it is expected to be patchy.

It's an incredibly difficult time for those affected by the flooding. There is an impact physically, on property and belongings, and mentally with the various tasks after a flood including contacting insurers and assessing the damage. It's also important that everyone remains prepared for any flooding in future, and so this e-NewsNK aims to bring together the

## Safely cleaning up

There is guidance from the Government on how to safely disinfect and clean up after flood water.

This is important as flood water contains bacteria, chemicals and sewage. Please visit this webpage [HERE](#).

## Looking after gardens

Flooded gardens and lawns should be left so the UV rays in sunlight can destroy the extra bacteria. Working in the garden disturbs soil and prolongs the process.

The time it takes for bacterial contamination to return to normal levels will depend on the season and soil type, but the maximum time to return to usual levels is one month.

Children and pets shouldn't be allowed onto the affected areas. Paths and driveways should be washed down and disinfected. Garden or allotment-grown food contaminated by flood water should not be consumed.

## Staying safe outdoors

The advice is not to approach or walk on riverbanks currently. They may be sodden and at risk of collapse.

Some rural roads also may not have cleared yet and standing water may still be deeper than you think.





Select to enlarge.

A **personal flood plan** is downloadable from the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum website [HERE](#).

It can help you work out in advance what you'd need and where you could go in the event of a flood, or might help any friends or family you have who are vulnerable.

**Download this image to your phone** or save it somewhere safe - it has the numbers you'll need to report a flood or other issues such as fallen trees or a power cut.



Select to enlarge.

Should you need to leave your property quickly in future, you might want to decide now what you'd put in a **flood kit**.

It could include a torch, warm and waterproof clothing, important documents, water, food, medication, toys for children and pets, rubber gloves and wellington boots. Find more [HERE](#).

## What to do after a flood

Here are some tips on how to safely get back into your home or property after a flood.

- Before you attempt to switch anything back on again; get your electric meter checked by the electricity transmission company and get your fuse box and electrical sockets checked by an electrician.
- Before you use gas appliances, get a Gas Safe Engineer to check to ensure they are safe.
- Before you drink tap water, check that it is safe with Anglian Water. If in doubt boil first or use bottled.
- Be aware of the health effects caused by a flood - flood water contains sewage, chemicals and bacteria (see: *safely cleaning up* below).

## Help for farmers and growers

Some fields and parcels of land are still flooded, sometimes by design as part of flood defences or as water carries on moving through the system.

If you or someone you know in the agricultural community is suffering after Storm Babet, the [Lincolnshire Rural Support Network](#) offers an understanding space to talk. Its helpline is 0800 138 1710 and open 8am-8pm daily.

## Dealing with sewage

Anglian Water will clear up sewage left on the roads, but their priority is any sewage-flooded homes.

Customers should call Anglian Water on 03457 145 145 to report sewage or use the online tool [HERE](#).

## Assessing the damage

You can take photographs of any damage immediately after a flood, if safe to do so.

If you are worried you may not find insurance again after a flood, see Flood Re. It's a re-insurance scheme that makes flood cover more widely available and affordable as part of your home insurance. Find out more [HERE](#).

Funding has been announced by Government to help households and businesses in areas with significant localised flooding from the impact of Storm Babet. This is a new announcement, and we await further detail to come.