



**Prepared and Issued by:  
Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) – Spring 2015**

**In all cases of an emergency it is recommended that the first point of contact should be telephoning the emergency services on 999**

## **Local Points of Contact**

### **By Telephone:**

#### **Shipston on Stour**

Town Council Switchboard	01608 662 180 (Not 24 hours)
NHS Direct	111
Environment Agency Flood Line	0345 9881188 or 03708 506 506 (general enquiries) or 0800 807 060 (24 hr incident hotline)
Non-Emergency Police	101
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661 845
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999
Electricity (Western Power)	0800 365 900
Water (Severn Trent)	0800 783 4444
Highways Agency	0300 123 5000
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410 410
Stratford District Council	01789 267 575 (Office hours) 01789 414 066 (After hours)

#### **Tredington and Newbold on Stour**

01926 410 410 (WCC)

#### **Local Media**

TV and Radio	Midlands Today – BBC1  Central News – ITV1  Coventry & Warwickshire 98.4FM & 103.7FM and also on DAB
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## Key Contacts

### For Major Emergencies

Some situations demand that residents immediately contact the emergency services as soon as an emergency arises, a 999 call is justified.

Rather than just assuming that someone else has contacted the relevant emergency services it is acceptable to duplicate a call.

### For Major and Minor Emergencies

Contact should also be made to the Town and Parish councils using the contact information from the Forum and any newsletters or the council website [www.shipstononline.org](http://www.shipstononline.org). For Newbold and Tredington first contact should be made through Warwickshire County Council or at [www.tredingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.tredingtonparishcouncil.co.uk). The council will in turn make contact with the area emergency planning unit and countywide support.

Depending on the scale of the emergency the council will be able to make use of their own emergency resources, county wide services and those registered in private hands.

## Introduction

The creation of a resilient community in Shipston on Stour and district has become a matter of concern in recent years. The floods of 2007 had a great nationwide impact as well as locally in South Warwickshire especially in the town and outlying villages. Resulting from this a considerable amount of data and reports has been produced by a number of agencies that has been focussed on this issue.

Unfortunately from time to time there are other emergency situations that may arise that have affected our communities in the past and will do so in the future.

e.g.

- Heavy snow
- Severe weather. e.g. storms and gales
- Major electrical and /or gas failure
- Road accident
- Fire
- Disease
- Sewage failure

Shipston on Stour Town council has produced its own detailed Emergency Plan to cover all these eventualities as well as flood risk. This document is held at the town council offices.

It is useful to have a detailed and informative document that attempts to second guess the ways any future emergency problems can be mitigated. However the danger is a large document however informative is likely to be largely unread therefore this shortened booklet is aimed at providing a practical first reference point.

A full version of the Shipston on Stour and District Emergency Plan is kept and regularly updated by the Town Council but because some information within the document is sensitive, the document is not widely publicised (e.g. where specialist machinery and equipment is kept for specific uses within the community).

Ideally the town and parish councils would hope you read this booklet and can use the information contained to help you think ahead and develop your own version of an emergency plan that would suit your particular needs. Further advice on flood planning is available on [www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan).

## What Type of Emergency Flooding

### Before, During and After Flooding

- Check if you are in danger of flooding by checking the flood risk map of your area (see pages 7 and 8). Also check the Environment Agency website by entering your post-code on the relevant page.
- Register with the Environment Agency Flood Line website for early warning phone calls of an impending flood event. Call 0345 9881188. Alternatively [www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding) or [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwarning)
- Ensure that your property is in good repair to prevent any flood water unnecessarily damaging your property. It is recommended that in any property that is at risk of flooding, flood protection measures should be taken such as floodgates, airbrick sealing etc. Advice on options and availability can be obtained from specialist companies advertising on the internet. SAFAG are also able to offer advice and guidance.
- To avoid any flood damage to your car look at moving it to higher ground.
- Prepare an emergency 'grab' bag of essential items for your safety and wellbeing.
- Have sandbags and sand or alternative means available to stop ingress of water into your property. In Shipston sandbags will be available from the Town Council. For Tredington and Newbold, the parish council carry a stock of unfilled sandbags at the Blackwell Business Park that residents may have free of charge but they will have to provide sand and fill the bags themselves.
- Protect doorways, low level air vents and windows etc. with sandbags or soil filled bin bags or similar types of protection.
- Move as many belongings and as much furniture as possible upstairs if safe to do so or at least onto a higher level surface.
- Ensure that you have ample clean bottled water available.
- Should you have a neighbour who is infirm in any way, help them to safeguard their property. Regularly check that they are safe and well during the emergency.
- If serious flooding is imminent turn off gas, water and electricity at the mains.
- Dealing with your insurance company will be easier if you ensure that receipts and other documentation is all available especially for the higher cost items. More detail is available in the Environment Agency booklet '**What to do before, during and after flooding**'. See section on Useful Literature.
- Avoid driving if possible especially through flood water.
- Avoid walking through flood water.



## After Flooding

- Assume that flood water may have been contaminated with sewage.
- Do not let children play in flood water.
- Do not use food that has been in contact with flood water.
- Do not drink mains water until assured that the water is clear of any contaminants.
- Do not turn on electricity until it has been checked by a qualified electrician.

## Extreme Weather (Snow, Gales etc.)

As in previous years snow is liable to create difficult driving conditions as well as block roads in both directions for a number of hours. This will disrupt town and village life but will also affect the transiting drivers and public.

Additionally, persistent cold weather and poor weather conditions in general can be a serious issue for the more vulnerable of our society.



e.g.

- Over 75 years old.
- Frail.
- Pre-existing cardiovascular, respiratory or other chronic medical conditions.
- Severe mental illness.
- Dementia.
- Arthritis.
- Young children.
- Living in deprived conditions.
- Fuel poor (those that spend more than 10% of income on fuel).
- Elderly people living on their own.

## When Storms and Gales are forecast

- Secure loose objects that could cause damage outside.
- Securely fasten doors and windows.
- Park vehicles in a garage or away from walls, building, fences and trees.

During the Storm

- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- Do not try to repair any damage to property until it is safe to do so.
- Avoid driving if at all possible.

After the Storm

- Do not touch any cables that have been blown down. They may be 'live'.
- Make sure your neighbours are safe.
- Ensure that all repair work is carried out safely by qualified persons.

## Other Emergencies

This booklet is primarily aimed at advice on mitigating problems arising from flood and severe weather but the comments may be easily adapted to take in most emergency situations that could affect a household.



Shipston on Stour Flood Risk Area



Tredington Flood Risk Area



Newbold on Stour Flood Risk Area



## Be Prepared

Shipston on Stour Town Council has plans in place to monitor individuals but self-help is invaluable in emergency situations.

To help yourself and your family this non exhaustive list is what you should have available.

### In the house

Prepare a self-help kit bag. It can contain anything that you feel will help in an emergency.

As a guide, think about including the following:

- Candles, matches, batteries, a torch and /or a small oil or gas lamp.
- A small portable camping gas or oil cooker.
- A stock of emergency food.
- A pack of important papers like ID and insurance documents.
- List of emergency and family contacts and other useful phone numbers.
- Mobile phone and charger.
- Pen / pencil and writing paper.
- Emergency foil blanket(s).
- Antibacterial gel.
- Toilet roll.
- Toiletries.
- Waterproofs and warm clothing.

### In the car

- Ample fuel.
- De-icer.
- A shovel
- A torch.
- A blanket.
- Waterproofs.
- Wellington boots.
- A filled thermos flask.
- A mobile phone and charger.
- Contact details.

## How does the Town Council Help

Shipston on Stour Town Council will have already implemented their emergency plan and will be dealing with the main infrastructure emergencies that affect the population. They will also be coordinating local efforts to mitigate problems that arise as well as coordinating all essential services.

Shipston Town Council has a store of sandbags, sand and other emergency equipment for distribution. Tredington and Newbold, have a similar stock of unfilled bags available at the Blackwell Business Park but do not supply sand.

Please be aware that sand chemicals may harm the bags long term so only fill bags when flooding is threatened. Never reuse sand after a flood due to potential contaminants from the flood waters.

As well as the emergency services the town council will be liaising with the district and county councils, environmental and other emergency organisations including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and electricity and gas suppliers.

## Emergency Rest Centre

The town council have planned to have emergency centres available for temporary emergency use for those made homeless or stranded by flood or adverse weather conditions. The Sheldon Bosley Hub is the designated emergency shelter for Shipston on Stour.



## Useful Websites

The district council website [www.stratforddc.gov.uk](http://www.stratforddc.gov.uk) has comprehensive details to help should you want to develop your own plan.



Warwickshire County council has a number of useful sections on its website that will be of assistance researching your own specific emergency plan.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/prepared](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/prepared)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/emergencyresidents](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/emergencyresidents)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding#floodmap](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding#floodmap)



Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Resilience Team (CSW) have a number of useful sections on its website that may be of assistance in researching your own specific emergency plan.

[www.cswprepared.org.uk](http://www.cswprepared.org.uk)



## Useful Literature

If you have been a victim of flooding or think you could be in the future then the following websites and documents are ideal reading.

The CSW Resilience Team has close links with Warwickshire County Council and works in conjunction with them in providing advice on emergency preparation. Advice pages '**Hazard Advice**' and '**Be Prepared**' are on the CSW Resilience Team website. See [www.cswprepared.org.uk](http://www.cswprepared.org.uk).

The Environment Agency has a number of booklets that will give advice of property protection like

- '**Living on the Edge**'
- '**Sandbags and how to use them**'
- '**What to do before, during and after a flood**'
- '**Obtaining Insurance after flooding**'.

These booklets can be ordered from the Environment Agency free of charge by phoning 03708 506 506 or download from their flood line website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

The National Flood Forum website [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk) provides support and advice to communities and individuals that are at risk of flooding.

## Flood Risks Extra

The risk of flooding is becoming a more common occurrence and whilst Shipston on Stour has not been seriously flooded since 2007, it has been close in subsequent years so we should not assume that flooding is a once in a lifetime risk.

The Environment Agency and the Met Office have stated that the climate change characteristics are resulting in more unpredictable weather patterns.

With flooding becoming the most frequent of the emergencies we recommend that special note be made of the following points including those on pages 5 and 6.

1. Investigate ways of becoming flood resilient.
2. Ensure you are registered on the Environment Agency flood warning system.
3. If you have access to the internet make sure that you keep an eye on the Environment Agency website.
4. Keep a supply of empty sandbags and separate sand to hand. The Town council keeps a stock of empty sandbags.
5. Keep all your important documents or copies of them in a safe water resistant or waterproof package that is secure but can be easily found.
6. If you are infirm or have other mobility issues, ensure the town council are aware so that they can arrange specific support via the emergency plan.
7. After flooding, check your drains and if the level has not gone down over 48 hours contact Severn Trent or your local council.

8. Even if your property is not flooded please ensure that you keep out of contact with flood water because it may well be contaminated with raw sewage or other waterborne diseases.
9. Residents can advise the Environment Agency of any blockage on the river or tree work on 03708 506506 or 0800 807 060.



#### **Actions you can take.**

- Check where and how you can turn off your utility supply.
- Check the emergency procedures for your children at school.
- Check the emergency procedures at your workplace.
- How your household will stay in contact in an emergency.
- Check if any elderly or infirm neighbours need help.

#### **Go in, Stay in and Tune in**

In the event of an emergency situation it is likely that the emergency services will take one of two approaches.

- They will either evacuate residents to a place of safety until the situation can be normalised.
- They will ask residents to shelter in their homes and check with local media stations for information and advice on what actions to take.

**GO IN** to a safe building  
**STAY IN** until you are advised to do otherwise  
**TUNE IN** to local TV or radio for more information