

Flood risk



This guide sets out overview advice for sport clubs subject to the risk of flooding. It is designed to outline a general business continuity and health and safety checklist to help get your club back to normal as quickly as possible, should the worst happen.

It is no secret that flooding has become a serious issue for many areas of the UK in recent years – and not just those locations near the sea or rivers, with surface water run-off from rainfall causing problems too. With this heightened risk in mind, it is vital that you take steps to reduce the risk of damage and disruption to your club, by assessing your flood risk and taking steps to minimise damage and disruption if it is affected.

However, the first priority should be for staff and public safety, and there is no substitute for planning. For example, you should think carefully about a safe evacuation plan and make sure you and key staff members know when and how to turn off electricity, gas and water mains supplies safely.

It is also a good idea to put together a flood kit containing essential items such as a broom, spade, mop and bucket, domestic detergent and disinfectant, rubber boots, gloves and protective clothing, a waterproof torch and radio, as well as bottled water for drinking.

What to consider in the event of a flood

In preparing for flooding, and if a flood is imminent, simple actions you may wish to consider:

- Create an emergency phone list, including emergency services, insurance broker and other important numbers.
- Be prepared year round - with increased surface water run-off flooding can be a year round problem.
- If floodwater is about to enter your building, turn off the gas, electricity and water supplies if it is safe to do so. DO NOT touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water.
- Gas and electricity supplies should remain switched off until a qualified professional has checked the system thoroughly. Wiring, appliances and pipe-work should also be inspected for safety and efficiency.
- Keep listening to local radio for updates or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.
- Move irreplaceable sentimental items, such as team photographs – as well as portable items – to an upper storey or higher location in your property to prevent loss or damage.
- Check any outbuildings to see if any items can be moved.
- If possible, raise ground floor furniture on blocks or bricks to minimise the risk of damage.
- Ensure all bar stock is stored off the floor.
- Do not re-enter your premises until all floodwater has been removed. The Fire and Rescue Service may be able to help you with pumping water out of your premises.
- Inspect fuel tanks for water contamination.

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The aftermath

It is very important to remember that floodwater may be contaminated with sewage and other pollution, so you should not re-enter the premises until the floodwater has been removed.

During the clean-up, you, your staff and any volunteers should take precautions to protect against infection – for instance wearing rubber boots and gloves and covering any cuts and grazes with waterproof plasters.

Clearly the full list of measures is more detailed but these easy low cost tactics will go some way to reducing the risk from flooding at your club.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

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