

Flooding

After the Flood – Buildings

How to recover from a flood safely and quickly



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Issues to consider

- Following a flood, many of the hazards will remain after the flood waters have gone. These include unstable structures and contents, raised manhole covers, contaminated surfaces as well as the potential for electrocution. These need to be taken into consideration to prevent harm to your volunteers/staff, members and the wider public. Your focus should always be on safety.
- It is very important to contact your insurance company quickly and to ensure that nothing is thrown away until their loss adjuster has seen it. Remember you may have more than one policy covering buildings, contents and equipment/vehicles.
- Floodwater is extremely effective at moving even large items around. All sorts of machinery, trees, equipment and debris could be moved on to the car parks and adjacent land, so these may need to be cleared. Such items may be sharp (could puncture the skin or eyes) or be heavy (cause manual handling related accidents such as back problems and trapped limbs or feet).
- Car parks are also affected by flood water and a planned approach to clean up is required to maintain safety and the long term use of the area.
- Floodwater can also damage roads, weaken bridges and culverts and cause ground to become uneven and unstable therefore you need to approach these with caution and pay attention to the instructions issued by the emergency services, local authorities and Highway Agency.
- Getting sports facilities back to a safe, clean operating condition is essential for financial security and local community spirit.

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Actions

- 1. Ensure that no one enters the flooded building and site until it has been cleared and is safe to do so. Inform the public of any hazards.**

Where possible, and legal to do so, prevent access to the general public and use signs to alert people to keep themselves and their pets away from potentially dangerous contaminated land and buildings.

Use your club network to communicate to everyone to keep away from the flooded areas and buildings. Let them know that you are waiting on advice from the Fire Service / your competent advisor, and that you will keep them updated on progress and how they can help in the future.

- 2. Contact your insurance companies and get a reference number**

In almost all cases the insurance company will send a loss adjuster to look at your property. They will confirm what repairs and replacements are needed and what is covered by your policy. In many cases they will advise on which specialist clean up companies to use.

- 3. If you do not own the facilities, contact your landlord/the owner as soon as possible**

- 4. Take lots of photos and video to document the damage caused**

Photographs and video are useful to record the damage for insurers and the wider club membership and they will also assist with future planning. Take photographs immediately after the flood as well as after the various stages of clean up and making good. The photographs can also be used in your club communications to inform people of the damage and the progress that is being made to getting everything back to 'normal'.

- 5. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when using plant and equipment**

This is important for health and safety reasons, as is ensuring that only competent and trained people use any equipment. In particular, care should be taken when using petrol/diesel generators and or dyers as there is a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- 6. Ensure all clean-up operations have a health and safety risk assessment**

These should look at what hazards exist in the buildings and on site, exposure to those hazards and what can be done to reduce the risk of exposure and harm. For further guidance on preparing a risk assessment go to the HSE website at: www.hse.gov.uk .

- 7. Take the following minimum precautions to protect staff and volunteers involved in the clean-up. (Note further/enhanced precautions may be necessary following the risk assessment)**

During clean up and routine maintenance, personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by all staff and volunteers who are involved. Minimum requirements include:

- Use machinery to clear heavy debris where possible. Safe manual handling procedures should be observed. Wearing suitable gloves (to reduce sediment contamination and to protect from sharps), dust masks, cover clothing (particularly cuts/abrasions etc) and waterproof boots with toe protection
- No eating or drinking during this work
- Thorough hand washing with soap and hot water should be made compulsory for all staff, before every break (including before toilet breaks) and at the end of the day
- Staff should shower to remove dust from hair and skin, cleaning the nose, mouth, eyes, ears etc. is recommended.

- 8. Only dispose of what the loss adjuster has seen and said it is ok to dispose of.**

- 9. Assess the damage to your buildings and what will be required to return them to a useable condition.**

- 10. Contact the governing body for your sport if you need further assistance and advice.**

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Advice on specific potential problems on site

Residual wet areas

Try to avoid water standing stagnant for long periods by redistributing water with brushes and pumps and use a hand fork to spike the ground to assist in infiltration.

If flooding has caused grass death, (this is usually limited to depressions in the field) cultivate the surface and apply sand dressing to help dress out the depression, if possible. Also, incorporate a pre-germination fertiliser as per bag label recommendations and re-seed.

Debris

Debris on site should be cleared using safe handling procedures. Contact the appropriate authorities regarding identifiable property such as cars and try to return these to their owners. Valuable machinery/items subject to an insurance claim should be recovered and kept for the insurance loss adjuster. Look to reuse and recycle where possible. Combustible materials such as wood and vegetation could be burnt in a well-managed bonfire and plastics should be recycled in local recycling schemes. Try and limit the amount of waste material that actually ends up in landfill.

Pitches and Courts

See *Flooding* Information Sheet 6 for more detailed advice on Pitches and courts.

Damaged drainage

Starting at the outfall ensure that your drainage scheme hasn't been damaged by flood. It is likely that your outfall was submerged during flooding. If it is protected by a one-way flap, then damage will be limited but if unprotected then it could have been blocked. When it is safe to do so inspect and clear the outfall.

Working from the outfall, open each inspection chamber to confirm that drainage is flowing and clear silt traps where appropriate.

Where drains are not flowing, check for obstructions.

Erosion

Check all roads and pathways to ensure that surfaces are not damaged and repair where possible – again this might be covered under your insurance policy so seek advice from the loss adjuster before commencing any non-emergency work and take photos of before and after.

Check for landslip and unstable slopes and banks. Seek competent professional advice on repair.

See *Flooding Information Sheet 6* for more detailed advice on pitches and courts.

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Further help and information

Further help and advice can be found on the following flood information sheets produced by Sport England and the governing bodies of sport.

- **How to plan ahead** – What to do to minimise the impact of future flooding of your sports facilities
- **Developing a club flood plan** – Making sure everyone knows what to do in a flood
- **Flood resilient design** – How to make sports facilities more resilient to flooding
- **Flood alert / warning received** – What to do to minimise the impact of flooding following a flood alert / flood warning
- **After the flood – pitches and courts** – How to recover from a flood safely and quickly.

Seek professional advice

We strongly recommend that you seek professional advice from a building surveyor, architect or other independent professional if you are considering flood protection and or recovery solutions for your property and facilities.

There is no formal assurance scheme for flood surveyors, but the following professional institutions hold lists of members who have undergone internal vetting and adhere to a common code of conduct:

- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
<http://www.rics.org/uk/>
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
<http://www.architecture.com/Home.aspx>

Check with your local Environment Agency office

if you plan to take measures which could affect the flow of a river or divert flood water to other properties. Call them on **03708 506 506** and ask to speak to someone in the Partnerships and Strategic Overview team in your local area.

This guidance is one of a series of information sheets that have been developed by Sport England, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Football Association, the Rugby Football League, the Rugby Football Union, The Lawn Tennis Association and England Hockey to provide simple advice to voluntary clubs on minimising the impact of flooding on their sports facilities and to enable them to plan and act safely and effectively.

These sheets are not intended to replace experienced expert advisors from the local authority, Environment Agency or specialist consultant.



Alternative Languages and Formats:

This document can be provided in alternative languages, or alternative formats such as large print, Braille, tape and on disk upon request. Call the Sport England switchboard on 08458 508 508 for more details.

National Governing Bodies Main Offices:

England and Wales Cricket Board	020 7432 1200	http://www.ecb.co.uk/
England Hockey Board	01628 897500	http://www.englishockey.co.uk/
Lawn Tennis Association	020 8487 7000	http://www.lta.org.uk/
Rugby Football League	0844 477 7113	http://www.rfl.co.uk/
Rugby Football Union	0871 222 2120	http://www.rfu.com/
The Football Association	0844 980 8200	http://www.thefa.com/

User Guide:

Before using this guidance for any specific projects all users should refer to the User Guide to understand when and how to use the guidance as well as understanding the limitations of use.

Click here for **'User Guide'**

Click here for current **'Design and Cost Guidance'**

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Further Information:

To find out more about Sport England and to get the latest news and information about our various initiatives and programmes, please go to www.sportengland.org