

# Scrutiny - Flood Response 2025

## Category 1 responder, Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- assess risk of emergencies occurring
- put in place emergency plans
- put in place business continuity arrangements
- warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
- share information and co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency
- provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management

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## Emergency Planning

- Community Safety Service Manager, Emergency Planning Officer and 0.5 OxCounty Resilience Officer
- Community Risk Assessment annual review
- Local plans for high/medium risks (County or City level)
- Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum

## Emergency response

- TVLRF Emergency Response Arrangements – Everbridge, PAT, TCG, SCG, GOLD Group
- OxCity Incident Management Framework (Gold, Silver, Bronze)
- OxCity Silver core group – Duty Director, EP Team, ODS managers, Housing Needs, Landlord Services, Comms, Contact Centre, Green Spaces, Property Services



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## Flooding

- River rising-tide scenario, surface water flash flooding, ground water flooding – differing responses
- PAT – information gathering
- County/TV-wide incident - TCG and local response (Silver)
- City only – local response (Silver)
- Flooding Protocol used to prepare, respond and recover from a flood event
- Warn and inform:
  - Social media, press release, leaflets, Cllrs, community forums, website:

### Flooding

[Home](#) | [Climate Change](#) | [Flooding](#)



Report a flooding problem



Preparing for floods and protecting your property



What to do if your home or property floods



Clearing up after a flood



Flooding advice for residents booklet



How we respond to a flood



View a map of flood risk areas



Flood risk and drainage for planning



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## Silver Action Card

<b>Plan Initiation</b>	On notification of a Flood Protocol trigger event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Contact ODS for on the ground situation</li><li>•Contact CMT lead</li><li>•Arrange daily SILVER meetings at 08:30 for the duration of the event and recovery period.</li></ul>
142 <b>Information:</b>	Keep appraised of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•<a href="#">Met Office Hazard Manager</a></li><li>•<a href="#">Gov.uk river levels</a></li><li>•<a href="#">EA river boards</a></li><li>•<a href="#">Canal and River Trust navigation</a></li><li>•<a href="#">Resilience Direct</a> for TVLRF incident information</li></ul>
<b>SILVER meeting</b>	Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Situation report</li><li>•Urgent Actions</li><li>•Forecast and river conditions in Oxford and upstream</li><li>•Risk management actions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Trees, pathways and infrastructure mitigations</li><li>•Consideration for isolated communities (boaters, Binsey etc)</li></ul></li><li>•Communications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•External</li><li>•Internal – councillor, MP and CMT updates</li></ul></li></ul>



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## Summary Actions

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### Preparation

- Set-up OCC SILVER
- Attend PAT and/or TCG. Complete out of hours duty list and circulate to OoH officers.
- Contact centre – staff briefed
- Circulate SILVER minutes and actions
- External comms strategy
- Obtain comms rolling-chain from TCG
- Preparation - Warn and inform using flood toolkit and partner website posts.
- Response - incident locality specific posts
- Recovery – opening localities, sandbag disposal
- Update OCC website
- Internal comms strategy

### Response

- Attend OCC SILVER
- Attend OxCounty SILVER meetings for countywide coordination
- Regular contact with ODS Duty Officer and [County ROCO](#) for on-going sitrep and tactical decision-making.
- Logging of affected properties internally and externally flooded including domestic and commercial premises. Report to TCG and OxCounty Flood Team.
- Email to all Cllrs and MPs



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Tactical coordination:

- EA - barrier deployments
- EA and ODS pump-outs of drains, culverts and gullies
- ODS - sandbag and barrier deployments at Bulstake Close
- FRS –high-volume pump deployments.
- Green Spaces Team – towpath closures
- Green Spaces Team – boating community contact
- Green Spaces Team – rough sleepers contact
- ODS – towpath closures and signage deployment
- SSE for local power outages
- Thames Water reports for sewage issues
- Consider OCC officer deployment:
- EHOs -sewage contamination advice to residents and food businesses
- CRT for assistance with reassurance, messaging and decants
- Locality Managers for community messaging

### Recovery

- ODS check risk sites for infrastructure deterioration
- Thames Water reporting for sewage clear-up
- Assess trees damage
- Explore Bellwin scheme from central government.
- Street cleansing of subways, cycle paths and footpaths.
- Communicate opening of towpaths and footpaths.
- Communicate sandbag removal advice.



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## Sandbag policy

- Like all other local authorities in Oxfordshire, Oxford City Council does not provide sandbags to the public except in very exceptional circumstances. We may decide to use sandbags:
  - to protect the properties we own as a landlord
  - to protect isolated communities
  - on a case-by-case assessment, where a member of the public is vulnerable and are unable to protect their own property
- All other citizens and businesses should prepare for possibility of flooding by:
  - buying sandbags but check the GOV.UK flood preparation guidelines for the best ways to protect your property
  - purchasing sandbags at most builders' merchants, including Buildbase, Wickes, and B&Q
  - helping neighbours with sandbag filling or collection
  - exploring alternatives to sandbags, such as 'hydrosnake' expanding water barriers from Screwfix
  - following the sandbag disposal guidelines on our Clearing up after a flood page

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## Questions?

