Flood disaster report

Flood disaster Report 2
Sunday 14 October 2000

Last week the UK's worst floods hit the county of Sussex in Southern England. A number of settlements in East Sussex were badly hit.

The damage caused by the flooding has been widespread. Homes were flooded and people have been left homeless. Shops and offices were flooded. Rail travellers were badly affected. Car owners were also affected; roads were shut.

Flood victims have been offered help by the Coastguard, Fire Brigade, Council and Government.

The river left behind mud and will take weeks to clean up. People are homeless. Insurance companies will lose a lot of money when they have to pay people compensation.

Flood disaster Report 3
Sunday 14 October 2000

The damage caused by the flooding has been widespread. Many homes were flooded and people have been left homeless. Shops and offices were flooded including a brewery in Lewes and the racecourse in Brighton.

Flood victims have been offered help; people have been evacuated from homes and cars by people like the Coastguard and Fire Brigade. People who have been left homeless have been provided with refuge in a local school and church by the Council. The Government has also promised flood victims support. Rail travellers were badly affected in Haywards Heath because services were disrupted by the flooding. This caused a big problem for commuters who were not able to get to work.

The river levels have dropped and left many problems. A thick, foul-smelling mud has been left behind and will take weeks to clean up. People are homeless. Insurance companies will lose a lot of money when they have to pay people compensation.

How does the UK cope with floods?

The Environment Agency is an organisation that looks after rivers in England and Wales. If flooding is forecast, the Environment Agency’s Floodline issues warnings. It also gives advice on what to do before, during and after a flood.

Number the following advice within each of the three sections in an order of priority that makes sense to you.

Before a flood

- Move your car to higher ground.
- Check on nearby neighbours.
- Seal all your rubbish and any chemicals.
- Collect warm clothes, food and a torch.
- Ring Floodline for information – Tel: 0845 988 1188.
- Listen to warnings on the TV and local radio.
- Block doorways and airbricks with sandbags.
- Switch-off electricity and gas.
- Move people, pets and valuables to safety.
- Raise valuable furniture.
- Be alert for flood warnings and take action.
- Tie and roll up your curtains if you can.
- Know where your family is.
- Get your flood kit ready.

During a flood

- Never walk, drive or swim through flood water.
- Listen to the local radio for flood news.
- Avoid flood water as it may be contaminated.

After a flood

- Throw out contaminated food.
- Check if it is safe to turn electricity and gas on.
- Open windows and doors for ventilation.
- Beware of rogue traders offering to help.
- Call your insurance company for advice.
- Wash taps and run them before use.
- Clear up by disinfecting walls and floors.

Imagine that your neighbourhood gets flooded to the depth of a school ruler – that’s 30 cm! Use this measure to guess the water level inside and outside your home.

Make a list of all the damage and problems that would be caused by the flood water.

If the flooding lasted for a week, what further problems would be created for you and your family? Add these to your list and compare with a partner.