

# Three steps to safety

## Prepare

- Be aware and know the signs. Signs to watch for:
  - Heavy rain or severe weather reports
  - Rising water levels with churning dark water
  - A build up of debris in rivers or streams
- Plan where to go if you get caught in a flash flood

## Act

- Do not walk or drive through flood water
- If you are in a building with at least two storeys and you believe it is safer to stay where you are, you should move to a higher storey
- Call 999 if there's a risk to life, or if you're trapped

## Survive

- Call 999 if you're in immediate danger
- Follow advice from the emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

## Where can you go for updates on flooding?

Make sure you know your local radio station

[BBC Radio Devon – 95.8 FM \(Exeter\), 103.4 FM \(Countywide\)](#)

Follow us  @ EnvAgencySW

Visit <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk>

# Your home in Horrabridge could be at risk of Flash Flooding

Stay safe. Do you know what to do?



Extreme flash flooding is dangerous and can happen very quickly. The effects can be devastating.

Look inside to find out about the dangers of flash flooding and how to stay safe.

## Your community is at risk of flash flooding

The Environment Agency works hard to pinpoint where flash floods are likely to happen and have identified that your community is at risk. Most major flash floods occur in places where there have been none in living memory so it is vital that, even if flooding hasn't happened in your community for a long time, you know what to do and how to stay safe.

This leaflet sets out some simple actions to ensure you know what to do if a flash flood happens

## What is flash flooding?

Flash floods occur extremely quickly - much faster than other forms of flooding - and with massive force. They can move rocks, tear out trees, sweep away vehicles and destroy buildings and bridges.

They tend to happen when heavy rainfall runs off land and quickly swells rivers and streams. Water can also build up quickly in urban areas when rainfall is unable to drain away.

How to recognise a flash flood:

- heavy rainfall
- a short time between the rainfall and flooding
- large amounts of fast flowing water
- damage to buildings and structures
- dangers presented by debris
- there is an urgent threat to life.

Flash flooding can happen suddenly. You may have to act before the Environment Agency can issue a warning, or before emergency services can reach you.

People particularly at risk are those:

- In basements or single-storey properties
- In a mobile home, tent, caravan, boat or wooden structure
- Unfamiliar with the area e.g. tourists

## What can you do now?

**Check if you are at risk of flooding**

**Sign up to receive free flood alerts**

**Make a checklist of things you can take**

It's really easy to take these actions:

- call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**
- visit [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood)



**FLOODING IS EXPECTED  
IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

**Check to see if your insurance covers flooding**

**Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies**



## What can you do when you get a flood alert?

Check that your family, neighbours and pets are okay.



Move important things upstairs or to higher shelves, so they don't get covered in dirty flood water.

