



Roles and Responsibilities in Flood and Water Management

The world of flooding and drainage is a complex one with a number of agencies responsible for different stages. The reduction of flood risk is not just the responsibility of organisations and authorities. If you own land which is adjacent to a watercourse, you have certain legal obligations to maintain that watercourse. Anyone who owns land which has a watercourse running through it, or alongside it, can be deemed to be a riparian owner. You can find advice and information about what this means in the Environment Agency's publication, [Living on the Edge](#).

Please note it is the responsibility of the homeowner to protect their property from flooding.

Lead Local Flood Authority

The Flood & Water Management Act 2010 defines the county council as lead local flood authority with a number of new responsibilities. As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Somerset County Council has a role in overseeing the management of local flood risk, including: surface water runoff, groundwater flooding and ordinary watercourses (streams and ditches).

All LLFA's are required to:

- Investigate significant flood incidents as deemed appropriate; where possible recommend potential suggestions for solutions.
- Issue consent to carry out works in an ordinary watercourse.
- Enforce action to rectify unlawful and potentially damaging work to a watercourse.
- Offer advice on property level protection to residents. It is not always possible to resolve flood risk but there are ways to make your property more resilient.
- Become the SuDS approving body (SAB) (due to be enacted 2014) – approve Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS) to comply with national standards, adopt and maintain approved SuDS that serve more than one property.

For further information contact the Flood and Water Management Team at Somerset County Council on 0845 345 9155 or email flooding@somerset.gov.uk

Who else has a part to play in flood and water management?

Environment Agency

- Responsible for the prevention, mitigation and remedying of flood damage for main rivers, coastal areas and reservoirs.
- Provide Flood maps, Flood warnings and Flood Alerts

To find out more visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

District Councils

- Can implement and maintain of flood defences on ordinary watercourses which are not the responsibility of Internal Drainage Boards, including clearance of blocked watercourses as specified in the Land Drainage Act.
- Manage flood risks as set out in existing planning laws.
- Can make improvements to watercourses to mitigate flood risk.

To find out more contact your District Authority.

Internal Drainage Boards

- Supervise all matters relating to drainage in their areas, including those of an environmental and recreational nature.
- IDB's are independent public bodies responsible for managing water levels in low-lying areas.

For more information on the Somerset Drainage Board, go to www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk

Water Companies

- Make sure their systems have the appropriate level of resilience to flooding, and maintain essential services during emergencies.
- Maintain and manage their water supply and sewerage systems to manage the impact and reduce the risk of flooding and pollution to the environment.

For more information please contact your local water company.

Somerset Highways

- Maintain drainage systems capable of removing water from the surface of the highway.

To report a blocked highway drain or gully call your area highways office on 0845 345 9155 (not 24hr service)

For further information:

National Flood Forum provides a comprehensive list of property level protection products in 'The Blue Pages' directory. Visit www.floodforum.org.uk

For information on insurance and resilient repair contact the **Association of British Insurers** www.abi.org.uk

For additional information on protecting a residential or commercial property, visit the **Flood Protection Association** website www.thefpa.org.uk

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To request further information please contact the Flood Risk Management team on 0845 345 9155 or email flooding@somerset.gov.uk.