

Dear Portreath Householder or Business Owner,

Let us help you to Prepare, Act & Survive

This year, the terrible impacts of the coronavirus reminded us that nature can change everything at a moment's notice.

Flooding is the most common and widespread natural hazard in the UK.

Your property is located in an area that could be affected by flooding.

Sign up to receive a free flood warning from the Environment Agency by calling 0345 988 1188.

Prepare a flood plan. <https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk>

Find out more about community flood groups in your area. Email dc.flood@environment-agency.gov.uk with your enquiry.

Find out if there are measures you can take to reduce the impact of flooding on your home. Visit www.befloodready.uk

The Environment Agency has identified Portreath as being at high risk from flash flooding. This type of flooding happens extremely quickly with potentially devastating impacts as seen in Boscastle in 2004. These types of events are very rare, but can be very dangerous. More than 200 properties are at risk of flooding in Portreath and the surrounding area.

The average cost of flooding to a home is around £30,000. Flooding also brings a significant risk to life. The mental health impacts of flooding can last for two years or more after flooding has happened, and depression, anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can affect up to a third of people who have been flooded.

The flood risk posed by the Portreath Stream is managed primarily by the Portreath Tunnel and the Environment Agency carries out routine inspections so that we can undertake maintenance to reduce flood risk. While these measures reduce the chance of (river) flooding, it is a natural hazard and we can't remove the risk completely.

Taking steps to prepare for flooding, and knowing what to do in a flood can significantly reduce the damages to a home and possessions (by around 40%), reduce risk to life, and reduce the likelihood of suffering from mental health impacts in the future.

Portreath has a Community Flood Plan and an active Flood Group. The Flood Group and Flood Plan help Portreath stay resilient to flooding. If you would like to know more about the Flood Group in Portreath, please contact dc.flood@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will put you in touch with the relevant person.

We can also offer you a free flood warning service for the West Cornwall Rivers and North Cornwall Coast from Lands End to Chapel Porth. Flood warnings give you valuable time to prepare for flooding – time that allows you to stay safe and minimise damage. Flood warnings save lives and enable the emergency services to prepare and help communities too.

You can receive flood warnings by landline, mobile, email or text message. **Call us on 0345 988 1188 to let us know how you'd like to receive warnings.** We'll register your preferred contact details.

Know what to do. Have a flood plan.

BeFloodReady is your new local source of information and guidance on how you can be flood ready. Be sure to check out this new website which hosts a variety of free information and interactive features on how Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures provide opportunities for you to adapt, prepare and respond to our increasing flood risk. You will be able to browse a range of topics such as Grants and Funding, Reducing you Flood Risk, Getting Support, Property Flood Resilience Training Resources and many more. Visit **BeFloodReady.uk** today!

Our flood awareness campaign is focused on helping people know what action to take in a flood. Print or save a copy of your own personal flood plan from our website:

<https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk/>

We are sending this letter to all properties at risk of flooding in your neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully

Amy Pearce
Flood Resilience Officer

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