

18 JUNE 2020

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S FLOOD RESPONSE IN LIGHT OF COVID19

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INTRODUCTION

- Hello, everyone and thank you for inviting me to your call. It seems strange to talk about flooding and heat wave together but it can happen!!
- My name is Alan Burrows. I am the Deputy Director (Readiness & Response) for the Environment Agency.
- I am accountable for:
 - The 10 to 60 day integrated incident risk assessment outlook for the Environment Agency e.g. flooding incident, dry weather incident, covid19 impacts, EU Exit impacts, marine incident, major industrial incident
 - Delivery of our flood risk assessment (via the FFC), flood forecasting via our local forecasting team
 - Delivering our national incident response via our national incident room
 - Our air quality monitoring response following a major incident.

HOW WE ARE DELIVERING FLOOD RESPONSE IN LIGHT OF COVID19?

- Our strategic outcomes set the framework for our response. These outcomes are:
 - To protect lives and livelihoods.
 - To prevent serious environmental harm.
 - To support partnership working.
 - To protect the Health Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) of our staff.

Alan Burrows

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HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS AND WHAT DO WE PRIORITISE?

- To achieve this we have set out our priorities follows:
 - To maintain our critical business activities e.g. assessment of flood risk impacts, flood risk forecasting, flood warning, operating flood schemes.
 - To ensuring our duty rosters our resilient during pandemic phase the COVID19 by stopping and / or slowing non critical business activities.
 - To enable all our critical business activities to be undertaken from home for the majority of incidents, co-locating only if / when the benefits out-way remote working i.e. during a major flooding incident.
 - To operate flood defences directly using our own staff (or via community groups who have their own community flood plan).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LONDON?

- Our critical business activities for London are::
 - To operate the Thames Barrier 24/7 365 days a year.
 - To operate and maintain EA flood risk schemes in London to ensure they meet the required standard of protection.
 - To provide a flood warning service.
 - To work in partnership with your SCG during major incidents based on flood risk outlook.

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