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TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

# FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESS

21ST MAY 2008 • THE SOURCE, SHEFFIELD

SUPPORTED BY



The Region's  
Development Agency

## Introduction

It is estimated that there are around 1.7 million residential and commercial properties in flood risk areas in England and Wales and these have an asset value of over £200 billion. Already the costs of flooding are over £1bn per annum and with our existing flood defences, this is predicted to rise to as much as 200% over the coming century. Regions identified as most at risk are Yorkshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and the South East. However flooding is about more than a financial cost; people who live in flood-hit areas also suffer a cost to their physical and mental health and businesses can suffer set-backs that can take many years to overcome. Flooding also affects everyone, regardless of whether they have a property or business in a flood area. Travel is disrupted, if not cancelled, journey times by road increase and business opportunities are lost.

The recent floods in January of this year and May of last year were unusual in that many city centres were affected, not by rising river levels, but by the inability of the drainage system to cope with the sheer volume of precipitation. Yet there are over 7,000 cases of sewer flooding every year and in large conurbations, overloaded sewerage networks can account for half of the flooding problems. This is usually a result of high housing density that has exceeded the capacity of the existing network and exacerbated by greater winter rainfall and more frequent bouts of heavy rain. Our sewerage network is too expensive an asset to be upgraded and as there are no indications of a slowdown in building increased flooding through this route seems inevitable. This is likely to have a significant impact on business.

It is apparent to most people that our climate is changing, whatever the underlying causes of this and despite the recent increase in expenditure on flood defences, there is

still a need for business to assess its own exposure to flood risk and take sensible precautions to mitigate this risk. The UK is unique in that it offers flood cover as a standard feature of household and most business policies but businesses would be foolish to rely on this as their only protection. This one-day event will take a practical look at flooding from a business perspective. It will consider how changes in our climate are predicted to unfold over the next decade and how this will impact on the incidences of flooding. By means of case-studies it will examine how businesses have been affected by, and responded to, the recent floods. It will consider what simple steps can be taken to minimise the risk to your business, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Local Authorities and using sound business forward planning. Finally in the event of the worst happening, it offers advice on the quickest way to get your business back on its feet.

## Venue The Source, Sheffield

The Source is an innovative and unique training centre offering some of the regions leading business and conferencing facilities. Adjacent to the Meadowhall Shopping Centre, the Source is the element of British Land's Master-planning programme, which is looking at sustainable development in the area, in conjunction with Sheffield City Council. It is located just off Junction 34 of the M1, with direct bus, train and Supertram links, along with free parking.

## Accommodation

**The Premier Travel Inn** is located on the Meadowhall site and offers rooms from **£60 per night**. Please contact the hotel directly if you would like to make a reservation, [www.premiertravelinn.com](http://www.premiertravelinn.com), tel. **0870 990 6440**. We also recommend [www.allukhotels.co.uk](http://www.allukhotels.co.uk) to search for local hotels using the venue postcode S9 1EA.

# Programme

9.45 – 10.00

## Conference Opening - Yorkshire Forward's Response to Flooding

Chair - Richard Wright,  
Yorkshire Forward,

### SESSION 1 DEALING WITH FLOODS

10.00 – 10.30

#### A meteorological overview of the summer 2007 floods

Paul Davies, Government  
Business, Met Office

- About the Met Office
- How the Met Office forecast extreme rainfall
- Working with the Environment Agency (EA) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

10.30 – 11.00

#### Experiences of Sheffield City Council

David Curtis, Director of Development  
Services, Sheffield City Council

- The flooding events of 25th June 2007
- The impact and the City's response
- Efforts to assist Business recovery
- Lessons for the future

11.00 – 11.10

#### Discussion & questions

11.10 – 11.30

#### Coffee Break

### SESSION 2 RISK AND PLANNING

11.30 – 12.00

#### The Summer 2007 – An Insurance Perspective

Swenja Surminski,  
Policy Adviser Climate Change,  
Association of British Insurers

- The lessons learned from all stakeholders
- What can businesses do to better understand and manage flood risk

12.00 – 12.30

#### Flood Risk - The Environment Agency Perspective

Peter Holmes, Environment Agency

- Understanding flood risk
- What the Environment Agency can do to reduce risk
- What you can do to reduce risk

12.30 – 12.40

#### Discussion & questions

12.40 – 13.40

#### Lunch

### SESSION 2 RISK AND PLANNING CONT.

13.40 – 14.10

#### Working with the Emergency Services in the Event of Flooding

Peter Ramsay, Security & Emergency  
Planning Manager,  
Yorkshire Water Services Limited

- Command structure
- Yorkshire Water Services Incident Management
- Key Impacts

14.10 – 14.35

#### Tackling Microbial Risks Arising from Sewage Flooding

Robert Pitchers,  
Senior Microbiologist, WRc

- Background
- Using a practical decision support tool to make a reliable estimate of the microbial risks from sewage flooding
- Responding with appropriate remedial measures (e.g. clean-up procedures, quarantine periods) to mitigate those risks where property and land (including agriculture) has been affected, and
- Establishing a web-based information resource offering guidance on good practice

14.35 – 14.45

#### Discussion & Questions

14.45 – 15.10

#### Coffee Break

### SESSION 3 SOLUTIONS

15.10 – 15.40

#### The Role of the Water Industry Forum in providing support services at flood incidents and to local affected businesses

Mark Lowe, Aqua Enviro Limited

- The Background to the Water Industry Forum and its role in the water and waste water sector
- An insight into practical preventative options
- When is it safe to return?

15.40 – 16.10

#### An holistic approach to flood risk management and the role surface water management plans

Richard Crowder, Halcrow

- Defra's IUD pilots have been a 'test' to assess how we work together to tackle the problems of integrated urban drainage and flood risk management. It is now time to look at the results of the test and report on the good, the bad and the ugly...
- The Environment Agency's Review of 2007 summer floods and the Independent Pitt Review have both identified the need for better Urban flood risk management and the need for this to be done in a more integrated and holistic manner. What does this really mean in practice...?
- New guidance being prepared as part of Defra's IUD pilot programme will provide a new framework for the regulators, business, practitioners and those impacted by the problems of flooding from urban drainage to work in an integrated and holistic manner. How is this shaping up... (Surface Water Management Plans?)

16.10 – 16.20

#### Discussion & Questions

16.20

#### Conference Close

## Booking Form

### Delegate Details

I would like to register for the 'FLOOD MANAGEMENT FOR BUSINESS' event on 21st May 2008.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Correspondence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees** £140.00 (+VAT) = £164.50

### Method of Payment

**CHEQUE:** I enclose a cheque for

£ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to AE Technology Transfer  
(A VAT Receipt will be sent automatically).

**INVOICE:** Please invoice for the sum of

£ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Invoice Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT/DEBIT CARD:

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Issue number (for Switch) \_\_\_\_\_

Security number (last 3 digits on reverse of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Registered address (if different to delegate address above)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Terms and Conditions

A charge of £40 (+VAT) will be levied for cancellations made up to 20 days prior to the event. Cancellations after this period will be liable for payment of the full fee. Payments should be received 30 days of receipt of invoice.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Enquiries and booking forms directed to:

**AE Technology Transfer, Unit 8, Appleton Court,  
Calder Park, Wakefield WF2 7AR**

Tel: 01924 257 891 Fax: 01924 257 455

Email: training@aquaeenviro.co.uk