

Flooding Facts

Ireland has experienced an increase in the number of severe weather events in recent years including those that lead to flooding. Scientists predict that climate change may lead to more frequent flooding in the future.

Flooding can have a significant impact on people living and working in the affected areas. Essential services can be disrupted and property and possessions can be damaged or lost. **Most seriously, flooding can result in injury and loss of life.**

Members of the public who are at risk of flooding can reduce the impact of a flood by making plans and by being prepared to respond should the need arise.

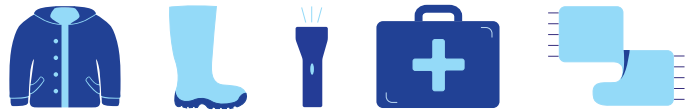
Prepare a family flood plan. This is especially important where there are any young children or older adults.

If you are an older adult living alone, consider where you could go in the event of a flood.

Make up a flood kit and ensure that everyone knows where to find it. A flood kit should include a torch, some warm and waterproof clothes, wellington boots, a first aid kit and blankets.

Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.

Store important items and documents upstairs or above the highest possible flood level.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.flooding.ie Guidance on flooding.

www.floodinfo.ie The OPW's flood information portal for location specific access to flood risk and flood risk management information.

Prepare for Winter Driving

VEHICLE CHECKS

- Get your vehicle serviced before winter sets in.
- Ensure it is ready for winter weather conditions.

PLAN

During Severe Weather Conditions:

- In advance of your journey ensure to check and be informed of all weather (See www.met.ie/) traffic and road conditions (See <https://traffic.tii.ie/>).
- Don't take chances – consider postponing your journey until weather and road conditions improve.
- Give yourself extra time and allow for delays and **SLOW DOWN!!**

PREPARE

Prepare your vehicle before setting off. Check the brakes, lights, wipers, tyre tread and de-mist functions. If you **MUST** travel, prepare for severe conditions by:

- Keeping your vehicle fuel tank close to full during the winter.
- Allowing extra time and letting someone know your route and your expected arrival time.
- Making sure your vehicle has emergency equipment before you leave.

YOUR TYRES CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE:

- Tyres are your vehicle's only contact with the road.
- Check your tyre treads and pressure, including the spare tyre. The minimum legal limit is 1.6mm for a car (1mm for motorcycles), but a minimum tread of 3mm is advised.

BE AWARE

Watch out for other road users:

Slow Down and give pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists more space when over-taking. They may need to avoid an obstacle in the road, may skid in icy and snowy conditions, or get blown off course in strong winds.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.rsa.ie Visit the RSA website (Search Severe Weather) for more detailed advice on driving during severe weather.

www.winterready.ie

OEP Phone: 01-237 3800

E-mail: oep@defence.ie

X: [@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)

Be Winter-Ready

BE PREPARED THIS WINTER



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Be Winter-Ready public information campaign is a "Whole of Government" initiative to provide information on a wide range of topics. Information from Government Departments and Agencies on how to be ready for winter is contained on our website winterready.ie

Minding Your Mental Health

Taking care of our mental health and being there for others is important as we face into the winter months.

Many of us experience mental health difficulties such as ongoing stress, anxiety, low mood or trouble sleeping.

When we're not feeling ourselves, it can be hard to connect the signs. If you're worried about your mental health, you can talk to your GP. They can offer support and provide information.

You can find more information and support that can help at www.yourmentalhealth.ie. The website provides information and signposting on all mental health supports and services that are available nationally and locally provided by the HSE and its funded partners. You can also call the freephone, YourMentalHealth Information Line to find supports and services 1800 111 888 (any time, day or night).



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

Visit yourmentalhealth.ie for updated factual information and advice on mental health and services and supports. You can call the Information line on 1800 111 888 any time, day or night.

SAMARITANS

Samaritans services are available 24 hours a day, for confidential, non-judgmental support. Freephone 116 123 Email jo@samaritans.ie Visit www.samaritans.ie for more information.

Weather Warnings Explained



STATUS YELLOW

Weather that does **NOT** pose a threat to the general population but is potentially dangerous on a localised scale.

Be aware about meteorological conditions and check if you are exposed to danger by nature of your activity or your specific location. Do not take any avoidable risks.



STATUS ORANGE

Infrequent and dangerous weather conditions which may pose a threat to life and property.

Prepare yourself in an appropriate way depending on location and activity. All people and property in the affected areas can be significantly impacted.

Check your activity/event and delay or cancel as appropriate.



STATUS RED

Rare and very dangerous weather conditions from intense meteorological phenomena.

Take action to protect yourself and your property. Follow instructions and advice given by the authorities under **ALL** circumstances and be prepared for exceptional measures.

This colour coding is used throughout Europe via the Metealarm system www.meteoalarm.org



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.met.ie/warnings or download the Met Éireann app.



Farm Machinery and Electrics

SAFETY AROUND FARM VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

- Ensure all vehicles are fully serviced and maintained in good working condition.
- Ensure that lights, brakes and handbrakes are in good working condition.
- Ensure that you are trained and know how to safely use all your machinery.
- Ensure that vehicles and machinery that will not be used over the winter are safely parked and stored.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Do not approach fallen power lines as they may still be live – contact ESB Networks before approaching any fallen power lines.
- Ensure that the electrical wiring around the farm is in good condition.
- Back-up generators: Ensure that you have a correctly fitted changeover switch and only use outside as exhaust fumes can kill.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:

www.gov.ie/farmsafety
www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Agriculture_Forestry
www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/farm-health--safety

