

GENERAL STORM AND FLOOD ADVICE

CONSTITUENCY GUIDE - MERTHYR TYDFIL AND RHYMNEY

Dawn Bowden AM – Gerald Jones MP

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SUMMARY

- Keep safe – especially in and around flood water.
- Call 999 in an emergency.
- Check your insurance advice if you have insurance cover.
- Check council websites for information on emergency relief funds.
- Ensure you follow advice regarding your personal health in flood water, and on the safe use of equipment when cleaning up after a flood.
- The Dwr Cymru Floodcare booklet provides practical advice about flooding in the home.
- Use emergency gas number if you have concerns over gas safety.
- Check travel advice before travelling.
- Check the Natural Resources Wales website for more advice on flooding issues.

Please find on the following pages a range of advice about flooding and related issues.

INTRODUCTION

Many constituents and local businesses have been affected by the storm and flood events.

This is a quick summary of the key advice we have seen recently and have pulled together in to one document for reference.

INSURANCE ADVICE

The Association of British Insurers have offered the following advice for those needing to make claims after the storms.

<https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/flooding/recovering-from-a-flood/#.Xk-lObeA6Bl.twitter>

See the two pdfs at the bottom of their website page for more detailed guidance.

WELSH GOVERNMENT

The Welsh Government has made an initial £10 million of funding available for storm and flood recovery work.

All households affected by flooding throughout Wales will receive £500. An extra £500 will be available to those without house insurance cover. People will receive an initial payment within 24 hours. Welsh Government is asking for those impacted to speak with their local authority emergency support teams in the first instance, to ensure the system is as quick and effective as possible. Further information can be found under 'February floods' on the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/>.

Working with the two local authorities this will have a focus on those people without insurance and the extra costs imposed on local councils. The website needs to be followed as details of schemes are developed and put in place.

Read more here:

<https://gov.wales/first-minister-establishes-emergency-funding-relief-scheme>

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Both Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly Councils have announced local flooding hardship funds to assist those affected by the floods.

Initial details here:

Merthyr Tydfil CBC: <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/storm>

Caerphilly CBC: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Emergencies-and-crime-prevention/Emergency-Notification>

HOUSING LANDLORDS

Local Housing Associations have advice for tenants on their websites

- **Merthyr valleys Homes** <http://www.mvhomes.org.uk/>
- **Merthyr Tydfil Housing** <https://www.mtha.org.uk/>
- **Wales and West Housing** <https://www.wwha.co.uk/en/>

HOUSING ADVICE – YOUR RIGHTS

Shelter Cymru are one of the advice organisations who also provide general housing advice for people affected by the storms and flooding, especially about your rights:

<https://sheltercymru.org.uk/get-advice/repairs-and-bad-conditions/flooding/>

NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

As always flooding and general environmental advice is maintained by Natural Resources Wales. NRW have a number of responsibilities and liabilities in respect of flooding. Read more on their website here:

<https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/?lang=en>

This includes advice on what to do before, during and after a flood.

<https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood/?lang=en>

PUBLIC HEALTH WALES

PHW has issued a range of advice about the impact of flood events and possible issues in seeking to deal with contaminated flood water.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/environmental-public-health/flooding/>

TRANSPORT

• **Rail**

Rail services can be most severely affected by local incidents (e.g. landslides) or disruption across the wider network. The best advice is to check before travelling.

Transport for Wales update their website regularly and live travel updates:

<https://tfwrail.wales/travel-updates>

Network Rail provide updates on repairs to damaged lines etc

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/stories/storm-dennis-how-were-responding>

• **Road**

The Traffic Wales website contains news regarding impacts on the highways network, though local councils also report on local road networks.

<https://traffic.wales/road-traffic-alerts>

- **Buses**

Local bus companies will inform passengers about disruption to local buses or alternative routes/services. For example

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>

WATER

Dwr Cymru are responsible for our water supplies.

Their website has information regarding the flooding events here

<https://www.dwrcymru.com/>

Attention is drawn to the Floodcare booklet if affected by flooding

<https://www.welshwater.com/en/My-Wastewater/Your-Sewers/Sewer-Flooding/What-you-can-do.aspx>

ELECTRICITY

Western Power Distribution look after our power distribution network. They provide information and updates regarding power cuts here:

<https://www.westernpower.co.uk/power-cuts>

GAS

The Gas Emergency number is 0800 111 999

If you smell gas, think you have a gas leak, or are worried that fumes containing **carbon monoxide** are escaping from a gas appliance, please call the free Gas Emergency Services emergency line immediately.

COAL

The UK Coal Authority advise on land stability issues alongside the work of local authorities. The website is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-stability>

EMERGENCY

As always it is 999 if you face an immediate emergency requiring a blue light service.

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General note: *This document is a general guide to information sources from public bodies and does not provide legal advice. Anyone requiring legal advice should contact a local solicitor etc.*