



## Preparing for Severe Weather

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council works with the emergency services and others to plan for and help respond to all emergency situations including severe weather. Extreme weather events can impact significantly on our daily lives by leaving us confined indoors, causing power or water outages, or even resulting in our homes being flooded.

You may find the following tips and advice helpful in preparing for severe weather.

- **Keep up to date with the weather** by signing up to receive weather warning alerts from the Met Office: [www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails) or alternatively download the Met Office app.
- **Find out if your property is at risk of flooding** by visiting the Department for Infrastructure's website and searching 'Flood Maps NI': [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)
- If your property is at risk of flooding consider keeping your own **small stock of sandbags**. Sandbags can be purchased from local builders merchants.
- **Contact the 24-hour Flooding Incident Line on 0300 2000 100** to report any type of flooding such as flooding on the roads, burst mains, blocked drains or flooding to property.
- **Before travelling, check weather conditions** and allow extra time for your journey. Pack an emergency travel kit with essentials such as warm clothing and food and ensure that your mobile phone is fully charged before setting off.
- **Sign up to receive TrafficWatch emails alerts** to allow you to keep up to date with any significant traffic disruptions: [www.trafficwatchni.com/twni/emailsubscription](http://www.trafficwatchni.com/twni/emailsubscription)
- **Both NIE Networks and NI Water offer a Care Register**. If you or someone in your home is dependent on water supply or electrical equipment for daily care, then you can sign up to receive this service. Contact NIE on 03457 643 643 or NI Water on 03457 440 088 for further information.
- **NI Direct has a web page called 'Be ready for emergencies'**, which details information on actions you can take in a range of situations: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/be-ready-for-emergencies](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/be-ready-for-emergencies).

### Flood Water

You should not drive or walk through flood water. Hidden dangers in flood water can include dislodged manhole covers, collapsed culverts or water which is contaminated with raw sewage.

## In Your Home

It is useful to have an emergency kit in your home. Suggested contents include a battery powered radio and torch, spare batteries, a power bank to keep your mobile phone charged, candles and matches, first aid kit, a list of useful numbers, list of any medications you are taking as well as copies of important documents such as household insurance policies.

## Also

- Know how to turn off your electricity supply at the mains.
- Know where your stop valve is and how to turn off your water.
- Make sure your heating is safe and that your house is properly ventilated to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Have a carbon monoxide alarm in your house.
- Follow NI Water's advice on protecting your pipes: [www.niwater.com/winter-proof-your-home](http://www.niwater.com/winter-proof-your-home)
- During a storm ensure outside objects such as garden furniture, wheelie bins or trampolines are secured.

## In Your Community

Helping each other a little can make a big difference. Check in regularly on family members or neighbours who may need an extra helping hand during severe weather. Offer assistance with tasks such as clearing paths of snow and ice or with delivering groceries or other essential supplies.

### Useful Contact Numbers

- **Emergency Services** (Police, Fire, Ambulance & Coastguard) - 999 or 112
- **Non-emergency calls to the PSNI** - 101
- **Flooding Incident Line** - 0300 2000 100 (24 hours)
- **DfI Roads** - 0300 200 7899 (24 hours)
- **DfI Rivers** - 028 6638 8529 (Fermanagh) / 028 8225 4900 (Omagh)
- **Northern Ireland Water** - 03457 440 088 (24 hours)
- **Northern Ireland Electricity Networks** - 03457 643 643
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive** - 03448 920 901
- **Fermanagh & Omagh District Council** - 0300 303 1777
- **South West Acute Hospital** - 028 6638 2000
- **Omagh Hospital & Primary Care Complex** - 028 8283 3100
- **GP Out of Hours Service** (Western Urgent Care) - 028 7186 5195

