

No system of flood defences can protect against all floods and when a flood occurs an emergency response system has to go into operation. The response to a flood emergency will be similar to that of any other natural or technological disaster and will involve the same civil defence personnel being mobilized to alert the population and to help protect them. There are of course special features of emergency response related to floods and these will be emphasized here.

For many floods, with the exception perhaps of flash floods, a properly functioning flood forecasting and warning system will be able to give warning of the impending emergency. This may well operate on the basis of a series of alarm or warning levels which when exceeded require certain actions. For example, when

