

## SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE AIDE MEMOIR-NHS BORDERS

The Met. Office is responsible for monitoring weather patterns and thereafter issuing weather warnings to the Police, Local Authorities, NHS and the public so that they can be better prepared to deal with severe weather when it arrives.

These warnings can be accessed via the Met. Office website which is:

[www.met-office.gov.uk](http://www.met-office.gov.uk)

Warnings are issued using a set of fixed weather criteria for the whole of the U.K. To help understand the weather guides further log onto <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/guide/index.html>

Types of warnings:-

### Advisory of severe or extreme weather

These advisories are issued by 1100 daily as routine and indicate confidence of expected severe weather or extreme weather. Early warnings and Flash Warnings supersede advisories when confidence levels are 60% or greater.

These warnings contain:-

- ❖ Time and date of issue
- ❖ Risk Assessment of disruption
- ❖ A description of the type of weather expected
- ❖ Valid from
- ❖ When the warning will be updated

When looking at the map on the web page using this link [www.met-office.gov.uk](http://www.met-office.gov.uk) this type of warning will be in yellow which means "BE AWARE"

### Early Warning of severe or extreme weather

Early Warnings are issued when the Met Office has 60% / 80% OR greater confidence that severe weather is expected in the next few days. Early Warnings provide the public and emergency authorities with greater detail on location, duration and severity. They may be based upon actual reports of severe weather. If warnings have been issued, click on the region affected to see more detail. This type of warning will be coloured **Amber** and means –BE PREPARED




### Flash Warning

Issued by the Met office, when the Met Office has 80% or greater confidence, that severe weather is expected in the next few hours. If warnings have been issued, click on the region affected to see more detail. This type of warning will be coloured **Red** and means – TAKE ACTION.

### Met. Office key to warning colours Website

[http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk\\_forecast\\_warnings.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/uk_forecast_warnings.html)

The key to the warning colours for risk levels for severe weather events (these can often occur, particularly in winter are as follows.)

	No severe weather
	Be aware
	Be prepared
	Take action

**NHS**  
Borders

However there is another category that of extreme weather events (these are rare) which will be coloured the exact same but the risk, impact and advice is different. You must log onto the web site and click into the region affected for more accurate advice/status.

### MET OFFICE WEB SITE

Scotland is divided into five geographical areas within Scottish Borders being in with the Lothian's, City of Edinburgh and Dumfries and Galloway to form **SW Scotland and Lothian and Borders**. By clicking in the map you can drill into Scottish Borders and open up this screen.



## **NHS BORDERS SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURE**

- Weather warning received by email, Blackberry and fax from the Met Office by the Emergency Planning Officer who evaluates it.
- If disruption is 60% or more they are distributed by global email during hours. If not 60% EPO monitors situation
- In the absence of the EPO Executive PA in Public Health would circulate using the same criteria.
- Out of hours the the only warnings of severe weather may come via the media, or through the personal observations of NHS staff, who may be on or off duty.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ON RECEIPT OF WEATHER WARNING**

- **On receipt of email**
- Monitor the weather
- Check the following websites for information/updates
- [www.met-office.gov.uk](http://www.met-office.gov.uk)
- <http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/warnings/index.aspx>
- **You may not have to do anything**
- However if weather is bad or worsening consider **if on call**
- Communicating with other Managers in the NHS.
- Find out what is happening-be proactive
- Keep in touch with establishments that maybe affected and have been risk assessed at risk of flooding

- They are Priorsford Day Unit, Hawick Health Centre & Hawick Community Hospital
- These premises have practical flood defences that can be installed via Estates dept.

### **SCOTTISH BORDERS FLOOD WARNING GROUP**

- NHS Borders are part of the SBC Flood Warning Group for the three previously listed premises.
- This gives NHS Borders a "heads up" to the potential of flooding.
- **SEPA HAVE 3 FLOOD WARNING CATEGORIES ON THEIR WEB SITE.**
- Flood Watch-flooding possible-Be aware Be prepared, Watch out.
- Flood Warning – flooding expected **This is the trigger point for the SBC recorded message**
- Severe Flood Warning- severe flooding expected **NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED**
- Warnings are delivered on a 24/7 basis.
- NHS Borders have signed up to this warning group.

### **SO HOW DOES IT WORK**

- NHS Borders will receive a recorded message to the BGH switchboard on a dedicated phone number.
- This warning is **ONLY** given when it reaches Flood Warning level and gives you a 3 hour advance warning to communicate with others and decide on your course of action.

- On receipt of this call the BGH Switchboard Operator will contact the on call executive director.
- The on call Ex Dir should log onto the sepa web site <http://www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/warnings/index.aspx>
- You may wish to contact the P&CS on call Manager and the Estates on call Manager and make an assessment
- Note that the Estates Dept also get a heads up via the recorded message.
- They will do nothing until advised by the On Call Executive Director
- Estates have the capability to install the practical flood defences at the three identified premises **but they await your decision.**
- **PLEASE REMEMBER A LOT OF THESE FLOOD WARNINGS COME TO NOTHING.**

### **IF THINGS DO GET WORSE AND WEATHER IS DISRUPTING SERVICES**

- Contact on call colleagues
- Monitor the weather
- Consider does the NHS Co-ordinating Group require setting up at Newstead – details within Severe Weather Plan of Major Emergency Procedures Manual
- If a major disruption contact SBC EPO and
- Ask if the Flood Coordinating Group is going to be set up at the "Bunker"
- Are there any issues for Health? If there are issues they should contact you.
- The NHS Borders EPO is your liaison officer at this Group

Emergency Planning, Dept of Public Health  
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