

Cumbria Flood Factsheet

Information for businesses

Business and commercial premises

- If the premises have been flooded or water damage the electrical/ gas installation should be checked by a competent person prior to reconnection;
- Any electrical plant machinery equipment which has been affected should not be used unless checked and verified safe by a competent person;
- If the heating system for the premises is affected it should be checked by a competent person before being brought back into use;
- If you have portable heaters, space heaters etc to dry out your premises, ensure that they are positioned in well ventilated areas away from combustible materials;
- If the premises is provided with a fire safety system such as fire alarms or emergency lighting systems, we recommend that they are checked and tested by a competent engineer prior to the occupation of the premises;
- If you have hazardous materials or substances on your premises which have been affected by water, you should seek specialist advice prior to disposal;
- To avoid the threat of arson, you should ensure that your premises are secure if unoccupied. We would also advise that where damaged goods, equipment etc are removed, that they are stored away from any building in a secure place or in a secured skip;
- Prior to re-occupation of your premises we would advise that a risk assessment is reviewed or undertaken to ensure the safety of all employees in your workplace. You should also check your fire exits and escape
- Routes to ensure that they can be used prior to occupation;
- If your premises has structural damage which may be a danger as a result of flooding or storm damage, you should contact your local authority prior to occupation.

If you have any fire safety concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local Fire Safety Department.

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

If your business has been affected by the December floods then we're here to help. The experienced Chamber team has helped Cumbrian businesses through Foot & Mouth, the 2005 Floods and the 2009 Floods.

Whether you've been flooded directly or are affected indirectly (for example through staff evacuations or your supply chain), download our Business Continuity Checklist for a list things to think about and do immediately and see our Business Recovery Toolkit for more information to support your recovery.

www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk/news/article/december-floods

Advisers are available, free of charge, to help you deal with the immediate impact and through the recovery process - call 0844 257 8450 or email info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk

Helpful telephone numbers

Age UK

South Lakeland 01539 728180

Children and Families Information Service

08457 125 737

For anyone experiencing problems with childcare or early education due to the floods.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Kendal 015394 46464

Windermere 015394 46464

Consumer direct including any calls about bogus tradesman 08454 040506

Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

Carlisle – 08452 260040

South Lakeland – 01539 735891

West Cumbria – 01946 592329

Furness – 01229 841253

Cumbria Community Foundation

01900 825760

Cumbria County Council

01228 606060

Cumbria Law Centre 01228 515129

Department of Work and Pensions

03456 043719

Derwent and Solway Housing

01900 607500

Environment Agency

03708 506506

Foodbank Kendal

Contact Citizens Advice Bureau as above

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Gas Safe Register (gas safety advice and registered local engineers) 0800 408 5500

Highways

0845 6096609

Impact Housing

03448 736290

National Flood Forum

01229 403101/01229 403055

NHS Direct 111

Police 101

Prescription help and advice

NHS Direct 111

Red Cross 03448 711111

RSPCA 0300 1234 999

Rural Wheels

0845 602 3786

Samaritans

UK Wide 116 123

Social Services Mental Health Team South Lakeland

01539 713377

South Lakeland District Council

0845 0504434

01539 733333

South Lakes Housing

0845 057 0080

Transco (gas leaks)

0800 111999

Traveline

0871 200 2233

United Utilities (electricity) – 0345 6723723

Victim Support

0300 3030157
Kendal 01539 738830

Volunteering help 01900 826505

Voluntary Car Scheme 07788 396194

WRVS 01228 524508