

CIWEM - CMS Conference
Emergency Response and Planning for Flooding: Embedding the Lessons
December 4th 2008, SOAS, London

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. www.ciwem.org

The Venue: The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

Accommodation: There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

The Organisers: The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS) in partnership with CIWEM.

Conference fee:

Conference fee	£160	VAT £28.00	£188.00
Concession rate*	£130	VAT £22.75	£152.75
Group Rate [3 or more paying together]	£140/person	VAT £24.50	£164.50 each
Full time Post Graduate student/ Retired CIWEM members	£45	VAT £7.87	£ 52.87

* Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first by email to bob.earll@coastms.co.uk **before booking** if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

Conditions:

- Payment may be by cheque, BACS, credit card or **online** at www.coastms.co.uk
- Cheques (made payable to 'CMS') should be sent to: **CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU**
- For BACS payments please **return the booking form first** for an invoice to be raised
- Invoices will be issued as the standard response
- Confirmation of registration will be acknowledged on receipt of booking form
- Receipts will be issued on payment
- Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event; otherwise entry may be refused
- Refunds (less a £20 administration charge) will only be issued for cancellation more than ten working days before the meeting; substitutes are permitted

Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415 Joining details - maps, directions and hotels - programme are on the CMS website: www.coastms.co.uk or Email: bob.earll@coastms.co.uk VAT No: 742 4367 34

Photographs: Environment Agency, APEX



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PLANNING FOR FLOODING

EMBEDDING THE LESSONS

DECEMBER 4th 2008 · SOAS, LONDON



The aim of this conference is to explore and test how well the lessons from the summer floods of 2007 are being applied to emergency response and planning. The conference will look at the changes and measures required in both action planning and National Flood Framework to embed the lessons into routine delivery.

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Organised by **CMS - Coastal Management for Sustainability**

PLEASE CIRCULATE TO COLLEAGUES WHO MAY BE INTERESTED

Emergency Response and Planning for Flooding: Embedding the Lessons
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Name.....Organisation.....
[BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE]

Address.....

.....Telephone / Fax.....

Are you a CIWEM Member? (please tick) Yes No CIWEM Membership Number.....

It is essential for both pre and post conference communication that we have your email address:

Email address.....Job Title.....

I am happy for my Email address to be included on the CMS Emailing System (please tick) Yes No

I am happy to receive CIWEM email updates (please tick) Yes No

Please register.....place / s Total amount..... Your ref. / order number.....

I wish to pay by BACS* / Credit Card* / Cheque* (please delete) Name on card.....

Credit Card number

Expiry date We will need to phone you to complete your payment processing or you can book online at www.coastms.co.uk

Please return the registration form and payment to 'CMS' at Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos. GL18 2BU
 Cheques should be made payable to 'CMS'. Tel/Fax 01531 890415 VAT no 742 4367 34

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Introduction

Prompted by Hurricane Katrina in 2006, CIWEM organised what was for many people the first conference between the 'blue-light' sector and flood risk managers from the water sector concerning emergency planning and flooding. The discussions were prophetic given the summer flooding events of 2007. The need for effective collaboration between emergency responders to flooding is now fully understood.

The aim of this conference is to critically explore and test how well the lessons from the summer floods of 2007 are being applied to emergency response and planning. The conference will look at the changes and measures required in both action planning and legislation to embed the lessons into routine delivery.

Objectives – Outcomes:

- To share and understand the changes required and measures needed to improve emergency planning and response to flooding in the context of emergency planning in general
- To highlight the need for action in seven critical areas of work
- To explore how lessons learned can be embedded in good practice using the opportunities provided by the Government's Action Plan and legislative programme

A number of themes outlined below have been identified which are critical to the successful implementation of emergency response measures and planning in relation to the future.

Predicting flooding There was no doubt that the scale of the summer floods in 2007 took the emergency services by surprise. The Met Office and Environment Agency are developing flood prediction tools; but will these be up to the job? This session will discuss whether it is realistic to expect much more from flood prediction tools and the confidence that can be placed in predictions.

Warning systems for the public In 2007 the Environment Agency's warning system was fully tested and it worked well. Appropriate behavioural response to warnings is however key to the effectiveness of this system. Much is predicated on an overall level of the public's awareness of the locations of the risk from flooding session will highlight the future challenges including the need to achieve appropriate behavioural responses and customisation of messages.

Communications with the public There was considerable pressure on the emergency response teams to communicate with the public before, during and after an incident. There are now many positive lessons to be learned. Serious flooding incidents are now common place and this session will cover the key lessons and evidence base of what worked well and those issues that need to be further developed.

Communications – during an event – between Level 1 & 2 responders What the summer floods and other major incidents continue to highlight is a range of difficulties and inconsistencies with communications systems within and between responding organisations. This session will explore the lessons that have been learnt, look at changes that have been put in place and highlight best practice (MoUs, protocols, systems).

Adequacy of command structures – did they work? It is now evident that there are very different styles of the operation of command structures used by different responders often depending upon the culture of the organisation. Evidence from exercises and the floods in 2007 suggest that there is a need to look at this area more closely. This session will explore what more can be done to understand best practice and how this can be used more routinely.

Risk appetite - with limited resources The Pitt Review highlights the need for an increase pace of change in response to the threat of flooding. Government will need to mediate the pace of response and its affordability probably by using risk-based measures for assessing priorities for investment. How can emergency services (LRFs) and government plan for emergencies to a sensible degree and in a way that is transparent (and acceptable/ affordable) to the public?

Embedding the lessons: The Government Action Plan and the National Flood Framework The Pitt review has lead to the Government's commitment to produce an Action Plan, which this includes a commitment to new legislation in terms of a Flooding and Water Bill. It is clear that amendments will also be necessary to the Civil Contingencies Act, Reservoirs Act and Climate change bill. This session will explore what further legislative measures are required to implement the emergency planning and response parts of the Pitt review.

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PROGRAMME

09.45	Session 1 Welcome – The current context Chairman: David Rooke Environment Agency
09.50	Predicting flooding Met Office - Environment Agency collaboration Presentation 1 10 mins Paul Davies Met Office Presentation 2 10 mins Jacqui Cotton Environment Agency Discussion 20 mins
10.30	Warning systems for emergency services Presentation 1 10 mins Sophie Purdey Environment Agency Developing the Environment Agency warning system weather alerts & flood warning services Presentation 2 10 mins Mary Dhonau National Flood Forum "The current warning system could do better – 10 things that are needed" Discussion 20 mins
11.10	Communications with the public, before, during and after the event Presentation 1 10 mins Eileen Grant Gloucestershire County Council Presentation 2 10 mins Ian Cameron BBC Discussion 20 mins
11.50	Break 1 Sandwich buffet & refreshments
	Session 2: Chairman: Jonathan Morgans Atkins
12.35	Communications – during an event – between responders Presentation 1 10 mins Zonia Brown Government Office for London - Resilience Team Presentation 2 10 mins Mike Coward Cumbria County Council Discussion 20 mins
13.15	Adequacy of command structures – did they work? Presentation 1 10 mins Tim Brain Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Presentation 2 10 mins Paul Hayden Chief Fire Officers Association Discussion 20 mins
13.55	Break 2 Sweets and refreshments
	Session 3 Chairman: To be confirmed
14.35	Risk appetite - with limited resources Presentation 1 10 mins Jo Gillespie Regional Resilience Directorate, Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber Presentation 2 10 mins Tony Owen Head of Operations Delivery, Environment Agency Discussion 20 mins
15.15	Embedding the lessons: The Government Action Plan and The National Flood Framework Presentation 1 10 mins Mandy MacKenzie Cabinet Office Presentation 2 10 mins Colin Berghouse Defra Discussion until close
16.00	Close and refreshments