

# NEWS

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5<sup>th</sup> December 2007

## **WARNING TO HOUSEHOLDERS TO STILL BE PREPARED FOR FLOODS**

Despite this autumn having been relatively dry the Council is still advising residents to be prepared for possible flooding this winter. Continual and heavy rainfall can always lead to flash flooding off hills or from rivers and streams.

Prolonged continuous wet weather could also lead to a risk of flooding this year in the chalk valleys – for North Dorset this means the Tarrant and Winterborne valleys as well as Pimperne and Milborne St Andrew.

Principal Technical Officer Mike Coker said: “We try to help in emergency situations by providing sandbags but we can’t guarantee this if flooding occurs throughout the district or if roads become impassable.

“With the onset of winter we are urging those householders who know that they are at risk of flooding to make their own preparations for safeguarding their homes where possible.”

You can prepare yourself by keeping a stock of dry sandbags and sand (available from builders’ merchants) in readiness or by constructing more permanent flood barriers from, for example, plywood or concrete blocks.

Don’t forget the contents of garages, sheds and greenhouses also need protecting, particularly if there are electrical appliances in operation.

The Environment Agency, which offers free advice, fact sheet packs, local flood warning directories and ‘handy guides’ can be contacted 24 hours a day on 0845 988 1188 (local call rate). You can also contact the Council’s Technical Officers (Mike Coker and Barry Hollowell) on 01258 454111 for advice.

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**For more information contact North Dorset District Council Technical Services on (01258) 454111 or Peter Hyde, Communications Manager, on (01258) 484100.**

**Picture caption:** The River Stour in flood.