

Flood Emergencies

- How prepared are we?

Preparing a Nation for serious flooding



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**



“ Civilians are the true first responders and first line of defence.... ”

Bill Durodie - Kings College London

Almost one third of all flood plans in existence have not been published / communicated to people in their area.

2006 National Capability Survey



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“People often come together in an emergency reaffirming social bonds and common humanity”.....or do they?



National Planning Assumption for flooding

- *Serious flooding, affecting parts of more than 2 UK regions, with minimal notice, impacting up to 50,000 properties causing widespread damage and loss of lives.*

2 major flooding scenarios

Major COASTAL AND TIDAL flooding affecting parts of more than two UK regions.

Major FLUVIAL flooding affecting parts of more than two UK regions.

2006 National Capability Survey - what does it tell us?

Emergency flood plans

87% of Category 1 responders indicated they have plans in place to respond to flooding. (The status and validity of these plans is unclear and many have not been reviewed in the past 12 months.)

Almost one third of flood plans in existence have not been seen or validated by the Environment Agency.

Evacuation plans

One third of Local Authorities (County and Unitary) indicated their evacuation plans do not cover the risk of flooding, even though they understand their area to be at risk.

Of the police forces that indicate they have flood plans, a majority do not have flood evacuation routes identified and 1 in 5 do not include traffic management measures in their evacuation plans.

Vulnerable people

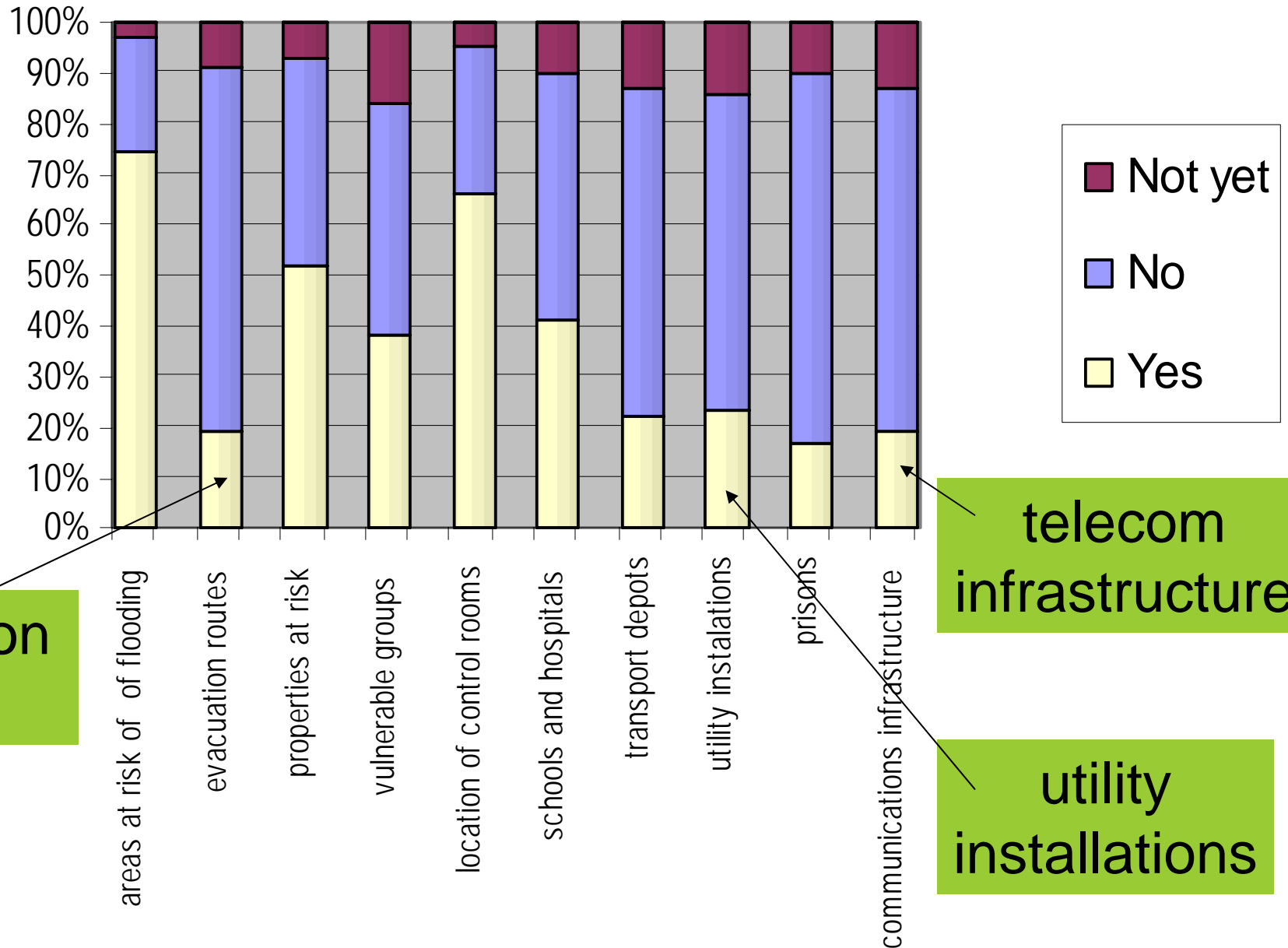
64% of category 1 responders have not determined the location of groups of vulnerable people (e.g.. care homes) within their flood plans.

Business Continuity

Over half of Category 1 responders do not yet have business continuity plans in place.

(The ability of emergency responders to continue performing critical functions during a flood emergency is fundamental to disaster management and recovery.)

Information included in flood emergency response plans.



evacuation routes

telecom infrastructure

utility installations

What are the main gaps in current capability?

Plans and planning

- 1) Lack of adequate flood planning that considers the full impacts and consequences of severe flooding.
- 2) lack of flood evacuation planning (and clarity over roles and responsibilities).
- 3) lack of planning for vulnerable groups and people.

What are the main gaps in current capability?

Policies and procedures

- 1) lack of procedures among some Category 1 responder organisations that describe how to deploy a response.
- 2) lack of focus on recovery issues (managing the consequences after the initial crisis is over).

What are the main gaps in current capability?

Communication

- 1) lack of emergency response plans that are publicised published and promoted to local people.
- 2) lack of properly trained personnel that are identified in Local Authority emergency response plans.

What lessons have we learnt from recent experiences?

- Plans without operating procedures is inadequate.
- Plans and Exercises are a means to an end - not an end in themselves.
- Vulnerable people are the most likely victims.
- Emergency response staff and their families get caught up in a crisis themselves.
- Evacuation and sheltering are intrinsically linked.

What lessons have we learnt from recent experiences?

- De-conflicting situation reports is critical to decision making.
- Rapid procurement and distribution of goods and services needs to be pre-determined and underpinned with logistical support.
- Recovery - when the crisis is over, who clears up?
- In a large-scale disaster, national and local response mechanisms must be complementary.

A few challenges for us...

- 1) having identified lessons from exercises, following through the embedding of business change.
- 2) does guidance go far enough?
- 3) enabling best practice to be shared.

Our success will be measured by the extent to which we have acted on the knowledge we have, changing practices and shifting attitudes and culture.

