


## Tools to improve the production of emergency plans for floods – are they being used by the people that need them?

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**Abstract:** Major floods in Europe over the past decade have illustrated the impact of these events not only on the economy, but also on the health and well-being, as well as the safety of communities. In the past five years emergency plans, some of which focus specifically on flooding, have started to be developed in both England and Wales, and France. At present, tools, such as checklists, guidance and specialised software appear to be used rarely to improve the effectiveness of these plans. Research was undertaken with flood managers in the two countries who are responsible for providing technical input to plans. The objective was to establish why tools, methods or guidance that can usefully contribute to improving emergency plans for floods are often not being used. The research showed that many flood managers are often not aware of the tools that are available to assist them in formulating emergency plans for floods. It was concluded that there is a need for guidance on: what tools are available; what data they require; and how the tools can be implemented to provide information that can be used to improve emergency planning for floods.

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