



Background to Surge Management situations Surge situations are those incidents where, generally flooding causes major damage to a large quantity of properties in a localised area. Examples of these in the last few years are:

#### June/July 2007 Flooding in England

On 20th June in and around Yorkshire and 20th July 2007 predominantly in the West Country we suffered unprecedented flooding. This 'super-surge' situation caused widespread damage to homes and business and required a huge effort by emergency staff and restoration professionals to mitigate the loss. Particularly badly hit where areas such as Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Worcester, Hull and Wakefield.

#### Carlisle

Early January 2005 brought very active winter storms to the north-west of the UK. Three people were killed and some 2,500 homes were damaged in Carlisle following heavy flooding, after 226.6 mm (nine inches) of rain had fallen in parts of Cumbria over three days — the equivalent of the quantity expected during a month.

#### Boscastle

2004 saw many other severe weather events in the UK and across the world. Parts of the Cornish village of Boscastle were washed away by floods on 16 August 2004. The cause was a series of thunderstorms which developed in a narrow line near the north coast, causing vast quantities of water to thunder down river valleys into the village.

A hundred people were rescued by helicopter. At nearby Otterham, a rain gauge recorded 200.4 mm (eight inches) during those 24 hours — almost twice its monthly average rainfall.

#### Elgin

In 2002 as in 1997 scores of people were evacuated from their homes as severe flooding affected the north and north-east of Scotland, water levels rose to more than 5ft in some places. Severe flooding on the River Lossie in Elgin, Moray, led to lifeboat crews being called out to rescue people trapped in their homes.

#### Lewes

In 2000 the ground around Lewes was saturated after autumn downpours. The floods in October of that year, was caused by the river Ouse bursting its banks leaving much of the historic East Sussex town under several feet of very dirty water. Over 800 properties had to be evacuated, including the old Harvey's Brewery. It didn't help that there had been considerable new building on the flood plain and the arguments over insurance compensation went on for a long time afterwards.