

PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

River clearance & flood defence work

The Environment Agency should be contacted when the river Piddle needs clearing and / or is likely to flood local properties or the highway. Call 0800 80 70 60

There should be NO LONE WORKING under any circumstance. Water should not be entered unless absolutely necessary and as a last resort. If the water is entered there MUST always be one person on the bank.

The following risks have been identified and are being managed by the Puddletown Area Parish Council. The Flood Warden is the Team Leader for all organised events with volunteers, and should ensure all volunteers are made aware of the following:

Risks Assessment carried out by	Cllr R Green
Date of Assessment:	To be carried out as and when work carried out.

Subject	Hazard(s)	Risk L/M/H	Impact L/M/H	Management/ Control of risk already in place
Drowning	Strong currents; Water over 2cm deep; Steep banks into water	M	H	Areas with strong currents & deep water should be avoided. Life jackets should be worn at all times when in water greater than 2ft deep. Areas that present a particular danger, i.e. steep and unstable banks should be avoided
Risk of cuts	Muscular, bone or soft tissue damage	M	M	Whilst it is not considered that there will be any dangerous sharp objects in the water, it is possible. The occasional steel can, broken bottle or other items could be present. Some of the heavy grasses can also cause cuts to hands when trying to pull them from the riverbanks. Brambles and nettles are present and may puncture through gloves. Volunteers should wear strong gloves to protect themselves. Volunteers should take extra care and be vigilant. Any glass and other sharps should be carefully removed from the river and suitably disposed of.
Slip, trips & falls.	Muscular, bone or soft tissue damage	M	H	Volunteers must be made aware there may be uneven ground. Work area along the riverbank can become very muddy and slippery. Remind volunteers to safely store tools, equipment and materials. During the task, the Flood Warden will manage any developing issues. Volunteers to be wearing suitable sturdy boots

Level of Risk: L= Low, M= Medium, H= High

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Impact (Consequence should risk occur): L= Low, M= Medium, H= High

Impact L = Minor Injury does not require medical interaction. M = Moderate, requires medical intervention. H = Major, overnight stay in hospital likely.

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Injury from tools.	Muscular, bone or soft tissue damage	M	H	Everyone using tools must be capable, able and if necessary trained in the use of tools, especially in the use of power tools. People using power tools should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment as recommended by the manufacturer. Volunteers must take care when using tools, of their own safety and that of fellow volunteers around them. Children should not use tools or equipment unless they have been trained and have been given permission by their parent / carer. Check all tool heads are secure and handles are free from splinters and cracks prior to use. Volunteers to use the correct lifting/tool techniques and to take regular breaks and swapping tool tasks to reduce likelihood of injury.
Tippers and dumpsters	Muscular, bone or soft tissue damage	M	H	To help clear away the debris we may use the tippers and dumpsters of local people. It is vital that these volunteers are skilled and trained to drive and operate these vehicles. It is key that children are managed around the on-site vehicles.
Weather and Environment	Heat Exhaustion	M	H	Flood Warden responsible for checking the weather conditions prior to and during the task to cancel or finished the session early if required. Volunteers to drink water and apply and re-apply sun cream in hot weather. Volunteers are advised to wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing including a sun hat
	Hypothermia	M	H	Flood Warden responsible for checking the weather conditions prior to and during the task to cancel or finished the session early if required. In the event of unexpected heavy rain during a task, the task will be finished early. Any volunteer failing in water without the appropriate PPE, will be sent home to get changed and dry.
	Becoming lost / disorientated / stuck	M	H	Wear high visibility clothing. Carry full charged mobile phone in a waterproof case, torch and whistle.

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Disease	Tetanus	M	M	Tetanus may result from the infection of even minor wounds and scratches. Where possible volunteers will already be immunised. Volunteers to act with due care, wearing protective clothing where appropriate. All open cuts and sores should be covered with a waterproof plaster and PPE such as gloves worn, where necessary
	Weil's disease (leptospirosis)	M	M	Weil's disease (leptospirosis). This is carried by rats and excreted in their urine and persists in water such as puddles and slow-moving rivers in rat-infested places. Anti-bacterial/ microbial hand wash to be carried and used after contact with water, particularly before eating, drinking or smoking. Medical advice on Weils disease https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis
	Lyme disease	M	M	Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted by animal ticks associated with rank vegetation. Sheep, deer and pheasants may act as hosts. Remove ticks from skin as soon as possible using tweezers, wear light-coloured clothing so that ticks are visible. Tuck trouser bottoms into socks so that ticks cannot attach or climb up the leg and make regular checks of skin and hair.
	Insect bites	M	L	Carry insect repellent, and sting relief. Cover as much body surface as possible with clothing. Move away from stinging insects slowly. Avoid using beauty products with strong perfumes prior to task to minimize attraction. Volunteers to check at the end of the day for any bites, stings and unwanted visitors on their skin. (safe removal of ticks https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lymedisease)
	Plant and Fungi allergies and sting	M	L	All participants will be wearing PPE gloves to protect from plants when handling material. Advise participants in advance to wear long sleeved tops and long trousers to reduce nettle stings and grass rashes and cuts.
Highways	Muscular, bone or soft tissue damage	M	H	Some work may take place near a road, of particular concern is where work is undertaken near to a blind bend or junction. The flood warden will assess each event / occasion and consider if traffic calming is required. Where possible this will be carried out before an organised event, and Dorset Council Highways informed, so that the appropriate signage can be obtained. For emergency work, the Environment Agency should be called, and their guidance followed.

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Members of public or landowners.	Risk of abuse/ attack	M	L	Do not carry valuables or large sums of money. Carry a personal alarm. Ensure landowners and their employees know who you are and what you are doing.
	Aggressive behaviour	M	L	Talk yourself out of problems; placate rather than provoke. Do not turn your back on someone who is behaving aggressively. Stay calm, speak gently and slowly. Remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.
Protect Environment				Do not disturb any wildlife / nature unless necessary. (I.e. weed clearance) Do not leave rubbish or other material at the site.

First Aid Arrangements: Flood Warden to have quick easy access to a First Aid Kit.

First Aid Kit Contents:

Tweezers

Insect repellent & Sting relief

PPE – Gloves

Triangular Bandages,

Eye Pad Dressing,

HSE Large Dressings,

HSE Medium Dressings,

Assorted Wash proof Plasters,

Cleansing Wipes,

Safety Pins.

Guidance Leaflet including Leaflet on how to remove ticks.

End of Document.

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