



# Floods

## Information for citizens

Alarm levels		1	2	3	4
Elbe	Gauge: Dresden	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
	Combined Weisseritz Gauge: Hainsberg 6	1.90	2.20	2.50	2.80
	Lockwitzbach Gauge: Kreischa	0.60	0.80	1.20	1.60

Reference depth in m

### What must I do in case of flooding?

Flooding often occurs at relatively short notice, and the persons affected may have little time to react effectively. It is thus all the more important to be aware of the specific risks to which you are exposed, the precautionary measures which should be taken, and appropriate behaviour in the case of a flooding emergency.

### Be prepared

Pay attention to the latest reports in the news media! Anyone who could be endangered by flooding is legally obliged to take all reasonable precautions within their abilities to protect themselves and to minimise the resulting damage in case of a flood. The use of land and property must also be adjusted to the potential risks for life, the environment and material assets in case of flooding. This is stipulated in § 5 (2) of the Federal Water Act (WHG).

### Information on current river levels

Seek information on current flood risks in case of increased water levels along the Elbe and its tributaries. Such information is provided in a number of ways by the Saxon Flood Control Centre (LHWZ)! The latest flood-related information can be obtained at any time as follows:

- River level data of the LHWZ Telephone (03 51) 79 99 44 00  
Once connected, press "0" and then any of the following six-digit numbers!
  - Elbe at Schöna gauge 50 10 10
  - Elbe at Dresden gauge 50 10 60
  - Weisseritz at Hainsberg 6 gauge 55 11 90
  - Weisseritz at Friedrichstadt gauge 55 12 08
  - Lockwitzbach at Kreischa gauge 55 10 00
  - Lockwitzbach at Lockwitz gauge 55 10 05
- Water and Navigation Administration
  - Elbe at Schöna gauge Telephone (03 50 28) 1 94 29
  - Elbe at Dresden gauge Telephone (03 51) 1 94 29
- LHWZ flood warnings Telephone (03 51) 79 99 41 00
- Internet [www.hochwasserzentrum.sachsen.de](http://www.hochwasserzentrum.sachsen.de)
- Videotext (MDR Television) from page 530
- Official weather alerts of the German Weather Service [www.dwd.de](http://www.dwd.de)

### Emergency telephone number 112 (fire brigade)

In case of acute danger, call the fire brigade via the emergency telephone number 112! Where possible, make advance arrangements for persons who are sick or in need of care to stay with relatives or friends.

### Helplines of the public utility companies

Electricity	Telephone (03 51) 2 05 85 86 86
Gas	Telephone (03 51) 2 05 85 33 33
District heating	Telephone (03 51) 2 05 85 61 61
Water supply	Telephone (03 51) 2 05 85 22 22
Wastewater	Telephone (03 51) 8 22 22 22

### Report damage to rivers and streams

If you observe any damage to rivers and streams, including the associated water management installations and structures, and similarly if you notice uncontrolled vegetation growth or accumulations of waste on their banks, inform the Municipal Environment Office accordingly. Reports Telephone (03 51) 4 88 62 11, Telephone (03 51) 4 88 62 58

### City Hall recorded message service

The recorded message service maintained by the City Hall operates over 60 lines to provide the most important information on current developments and also offers behaviour recommendations. Recorded message service Telephone (03 51) 4 88 11 99

### Consult the citizens hotline

In emergency situations, the City of Dresden activates a citizens hotline. Pay attention to corresponding reports in the media. The hotline staff can provide information relating to questions which are not answered by the recorded message service. For example, they have information on the currently endangered areas of the city and suitable flood protection measures.

Citizens hotline Telephone (03 51) 4 88 76 66

### Flood warnings by way of sirens

In case of acute flood danger, alarm may be given via the siren warning system of the City of Dresden. Pay attention to the alarm signals and possible announcements.

### Consult the city's website for information

[www.dresden.de/hochwasser](http://www.dresden.de/hochwasser)  
[www.dresden.de/umweltauskunft](http://www.dresden.de/umweltauskunft)  
[www.dresden.de/grundwasser](http://www.dresden.de/grundwasser)

### Warn children

Warn children about the special dangers associated with floods and ensure that they know to stay away from flooded areas and the immediate banks of streams and rivers!

### Keep off flood protection installations

It is forbidden to walk, ride or drive onto or along dykes, and similarly to climb on mobile flood protection barriers. Respect all designated protection zones and areas which have been cordoned off. Failure to comply may put your life and that of others at risk.

### Cooperate with your neighbours

If you have recently moved into a flood-prone area and are experiencing a flood for the first time, listen to the advice of long time residents and make use of their experience. Continue any measures taken on your own initiative until the flood recedes. Ask your neighbours whether they need assistance.

### Prepare a supply of emergency provisions

Be sure to gather a supply of personal emergency provisions in good time. Remember that the fire brigade and other emergency services will need their equipment themselves and cannot lend it to individual citizens. Consider especially the following items:

- Battery-powered radio (change the batteries regularly)
- Lighting: Candles, torch with batteries, petroleum lamp with petroleum, camping gas bottle with lantern attachment, matches
- Non-electrical cooking facility: Spirit or liquid fuel stove, gas camping stove, solid-fuel stove with fuel tablets
- Emergency food supplies and drinking water
- Heating: Camping gas bottle with heater attachment, hot-water bottles, woollen blankets
- Personal medicines and first aid kit
- Personal hygiene: If the wastewater system is no longer functional, use a washing bowl and either a toilet bucket with lid or camping toilet
- Rubber boots and waders.

### Check and clear your cellars and basements

High river levels also cause groundwater levels to rise, which means that low-lying buildings and rooms may be at risk even at a greater distance from the river itself. Check your cellars in good time and take necessary precautions. If there are water drains in any low-lying rooms, make sure that they are closed and check the proper functioning of backflow traps. Clear cellars, garages and low-lying rooms in good time, and plan ahead to ensure that the same furniture must not be moved several times. The fire brigade will only be able to help in exceptional cases.

### Switch off electricity

Ensure that the electrical power supply is switched off in any flooded rooms. Provide for emergency lighting. Make arrangements with your neighbours for the case of the telephone network no longer working.

### Switch off heating systems

Protect your heating system. Switch off burners, water heaters, etc. in good time to allow them to cool before dismantling or removal. Do not forget to close the gas valves of a gas heating system.

### Secure oil tanks

Secure oil tanks and connecting pipework by way of proper anchoring to prevent floatation. If all else fails, tanks should be flooded to offset buoyancy.

### Remove substances hazardous to the environment

Oil and other substances hazardous to water will contaminate not only the water and your rooms, but also the broader environment. If any hazardous substances are released in spite of all safeguarding measures, inform the fire brigade immediately. Any delay, however

short, will worsen the damage many times over. Remove all containers with used oil, chemicals, paints, solvents, cleaners, etc. from flood-endangered rooms.

### Drive away motor vehicles

Remove cars and other motor vehicles from flood-endangered garages, driveways and parking areas.

### Secure building sites

Building sites on the banks of streams and rivers or in flood channels and other flood-endangered areas must be cleared and secured. Mobile sales stands, etc. must be removed completely in good time.

### After the flood

Remove remaining water and mud. Caution: Do not pump out flooded rooms until the river has fallen and the groundwater has returned to a normal level, as there is otherwise a risk of damage to the building.

- Call an expert to inspect any building damage, above all with regard to structural stability.
- Floor coverings and panelling should be removed or opened to enable inspection of the underlying structures.
- Dry affected parts of the building as quickly as possible to avert structural damage, mould contamination or other pest infestation. Heaters can be used to support the drying process.
- Do not switch on electrical equipment or appliances until they have been checked by an electrical expert.
- Have heating oil tanks checked for damage.
- Dispose of all contaminated furniture and foods.

### Tipp

Further information on correct behaviour in case of floods and other dangers can be obtained through the website of the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance.

Internet

[www.bbk.bund.de](http://www.bbk.bund.de)

### Acknowledgements

Published by:  
Landeshauptstadt Dresden/City of Dresden

Brand- und Katastrophenschutzamt  
(Fire and Civil Protection Office)  
Telephone (03 51) 8 15 52 50  
Telefax (03 51) 8 15 52 63  
E-Mail [feuerwehr@dresden.de](mailto:feuerwehr@dresden.de)

Amt für Presse-, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Protokoll  
(Office for Press, Public Relations and Protocol)  
Telephone (03 51) 4 88 23 90  
Telefax (03 51) 4 88 22 38  
E-Mail [presse@dresden.de](mailto:presse@dresden.de)

Postfach 12 00 20, 01001 Dresden  
[www.dresden.de](http://www.dresden.de), [facebook.com/stadt.dresden](https://www.facebook.com/stadt.dresden)

Central public service number 115 – We love questions

Editors: Ines Kopsch, Ina Richter

16th (updated) edition, October 2019

Electronic documents with a qualified electronic signature may be submitted via a corresponding form. It is furthermore possible to use an S/MIME certificate to encrypt E-Mails sent to the City of Dresden or else to send secure E-Mails via DE-Mail. Further information can be found at [www.dresden.de/kontakt](http://www.dresden.de/kontakt).

This information material is a public relations project of the City of Dresden. It may not be used for purposes of election canvassing, though parties are permitted to use the content to inform their members.