



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure

Divert the flow



NFCC
Fire Central
Programme Office

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Control measure knowledge

It may be possible to divert the flow of water to either prevent flooding or protect assets. This can be achieved by:

- Using pumps to redirect water
- Making use of existing water management systems
- Excavating channels to direct flow
- Erecting barriers

Even during smaller incidents, any diversion of water should be done in consultation and with the consent of environmental agencies, land agencies or other responsible groups, as there may be unintended consequences. The diversion of water may affect biosecurity, cause flooding in unaffected areas, cause translocation of damage or otherwise negatively affect the holistic flood management plan.

During larger floods diverting the flow may allow areas to be protected. Areas of importance should be identified such as those containing Critical National Infrastructure (CNI), important transport routes or built-up areas. It may also prevent additional hazards from being generated such as contamination of water; once contamination has occurred the implications may be significant.

Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Have policies to support the sharing of information during a flood between responsible agencies
- Identify and prioritise areas that may be at risk from flooding
- Develop a holistic flood water management plan



Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Identify and protect critical infrastructure and potential sources of contamination
- Consider diverting flood water in consultation with lead agencies to protect properties, important areas and infrastructure