

Flood support for resilience forum

Working in partnership with Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Resilience Forum to mitigate flood risk

Challenge

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Resilience Forum (LLRF) has experienced a history of localised flooding. Leicester is ranked 16th out of 4215 UK settlements for risk of surface water flood with 36,900 properties occupying flood-prone areas (Defra, 2009).

LLRF has access to the Environment Agency's early warning systems for river and coastal flooding, but to date, there has been no property level surface water flood forecasting system which LLRF can use. In response, LLRF sought a solution to help plan for, and respond to surface water flooding.



Solution

After a successful pilot, in which Previsico's solution was used in a real-life response during the June 2019 floods, LLRF have now implemented the following:

- **Flood dashboard:** an easy-to-use dashboard enables teams to closely monitor flood forecasts in granular detail. Real-time monitoring, with warnings up to 48 hours in advance.
- **Real-time updates:** Every three hours Previsico delivers the latest modelled flood forecasts. This allows operations teams to rapidly mobilise resources and coordinate response before flooding strikes.
- **Integration:** Previsico's live forecasts are viewable in real-time and integrated through an API into the ResilienceDirect platform (the British government's crisis management platform for civil protection practitioners).
- **Customer support:** Working alongside LLRF, the Previsico team have delivered training workshops and ongoing support for city authorities, county resilience officers, and police, fire and rescue teams.

Benefits

- LLRF are now able to continuously monitor and predict surface water flooding at an individual property level.
- Warnings: Live forecasts enable flood action plans to be implemented and local emergency teams to be warned up to 48 hours in advance.
- In June, 2019, Previsico's predictions were verified as accurate by emergency responders.



What began with an exploratory chat about flooding in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is now a useful, lifesaving system. The team have worked hard to make this work and not been afraid to test it in real exercises with emergency services and partners here first. Applied worldwide, this can save lives and livelihoods.

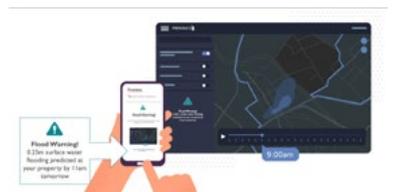
Simon Cole,
Leicestershire Police Chief Constable and Local Resilience Forum Chair



The growing flood problem...

- 1 in 5 properties affected by surface water flood risk.*
- Flood losses expect to increase five-fold by 2050.*
- Long-term mental health problems up to nine times more likely for flood victims.*

* References



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