

**Steps to be taken for pre-flood preparedness as per the
Disaster Management Department, Government of Bihar**

1. Rain gauge

Repairing rain gauge devices as per requirement and keeping them in working condition. For the readings of rain gauge devices, 2 trained personnel should be assigned in each block. Also, quick transmission of rain data should be arranged.

2. Identification of potential flood affected areas and affected groups

Potential areas and groups of people affected by the flood should be identified prior to the floods. For this work, the data of the affected areas and groups of people affected by the floods in the past years should be used. The list of scheduled castes and tribes, destitute, disabled, sick persons, pregnant and lactating mothers should be specially prepared.

3. Protection of embankments

Action should be taken for strengthening / repairing of the embankments at vulnerable sites after inspecting the embankments in each of the embanked district. For this, continuous contact should be maintained with the Water Resources Department (WRD). Report from

the WRD officials regarding the condition of the embankments and where strengthening is necessary must be received to know what all work should be done before the onset of monsoon. The WRD is also requested to arrange empty sacks, iron nets and sand at the identified points so that embankment protection can be started immediately if required. Arrangement of patrolling for the safety of embankments during the flooding of rivers should be ensured in accordance with the officials of WRD. For this, the services of *chowkidar*/home guard can be taken along with deputing junior engineers of WRD and other departments to form the patrolling team. It will be the responsibility of the patrolling team to report the erosion at any point to the officials of the block/district administration and WRD immediately. It is also feared that the villagers cut the embankment at some places. The patrolling party will ensure that no such effort is successful

4. Information System

After meeting with the officials of the WRD, it should be arranged that the information of the water level at different places of the river's flow is received daily after the onset of the monsoon season. Police wireless can be used for this. The officials of the WRD will provide information about the rainfall occurring in the catchment area of the respective rivers. Make sure that through the regional employees (public servants, employees, panchayat sevaks) of the district administration, source

immediate information about floods in any area of the district. Such communication plans should be made at the district level so that constant contact with regional supervisors, regional officials, trained divers, trained volunteers and motorboat drivers can be maintained.

5. Boat

During floods, there is a considerable need for indigenous boats for the purpose of population exodus, operation of relief and rescue operations and to facilitate movement. Therefore, all the government indigenous boats available in the district should be made operational, by plugging the holes and undertaking other required repair work. Also, necessary action should be taken to ensure availability of adequate number of private indigenous boats in view of floods. Regarding private indigenous boats, necessary action should be taken before 15 June as per departmental letter - 2001 / AP date - May 18, 2020, and letter - 2428 / AP date - June 27, 2020. A contingency plan should be prepared for the deployment of the boats. If there is a pending payment of the rent of private boats and the wages of the sailors, then make sure that payment is made as soon as possible. In view of corona infection, social distancing should be followed as far as possible during the operation of boats / motorboats. Boats and motorboats should also be sanitized as needed.

6. Arrangement of gram, sattu, beaten rice, jaggery, salt, food items etc

Make a review of the availability of food items like gram, chuda, jaggery, sattu, salt etc. in the market and get the rate contracted, so that there is no delay in availability as per requirement and time. The guidelines given by the departmental letter - 1504 dated - September 1, 2009 regarding tender etc. for rate determination of potential flood relief materials should be followed. Also, teams should be formed to prepare relief packets.

7. Polyethylene sheets

As per the requirement, the polyethylene sheets for the displaced should be assessed as soon as possible and according to the assessment made, polyethylene sheets should be requisitioned from your nodal district. Directives have been given regarding purchase and storage of polythene sheets by departmental letter - 1155 dated, April 20, 2018.

8. Flood shelter

The places of refuge may be school buildings, panchayat buildings or other high lands located at high places. Identification of high places of refuge before flooding is very important. Special planning for the identification and management of potential shelters should be made in advance. In the light of COVID, a relatively large number of flood relief camps will need to be identified for social distancing. There should be a registration counter at the place of refuge, which will act as a registration-cum-control room. Masks will be made available to all affected during registration only. Arrangement of sanitizer / handwash and sound amplifier (PA system) should be ensured in the registration-cum-control room with social distancing. Clean drinking water at shelter sites, adequate number of separate toilets for men and women, medical camps, communication, proper arrangement of lighting and sanitation, vaccination of newborns, delivery arrangements, food equipment and sites, psychologists, counseling, tent, mosquito nets, special food for children from 6 months to 2 years, sanitary kits, should be specifically planned must be planned. For setting up mega camps in the most flood prone districts, the locations should be selected in advance so that it can be arranged at the time of emergency. In the light of Kovid-49, proper arrangements for medical screening and thermal scanner should be made at the asylum sites / community kitchens. Only persons found asymptomatic after medical screening should be allowed to stay in the

flood shelter. Arrangements should be made to attend persons found to be symptomatic at the health quarantine center, where further action will be taken as per the guidelines issued by the Health Department (HD). The quarantine center should be made as far away from the shelter as possible, so that the risk of spreading the infection is minimized. Departmental letter - 3174, dated - August 24 2016; Letter - 3177, dated August 24, 2016; Letter - 3201, dated - August 26, 2016; Letter - 3226, dated - August 27, 2016; Letter - 3232, dated - August 28, 2016; Letter - 2368, August 15, 2018; Date - 5.08.2047, Letter - 2112; Date - July 14, 2019 and letter - 3849, dated - November 15, 2019 and necessary instructions regarding the operation of relief center / community kitchen are sent through letters as amended from time to time, which are also available on departmental website. It has often been seen that the affected families are on the embankments, or they take shelter by the side of the roads. To conduct community kitchens in such places, mark the places of shelter in advance. Necessary preparation should be done beforehand on the embankments or on the side of the road where people usually take refuge. In view of the situation arising out because of COVID infection, social distancing and other safety standards will be specially taken care of in the operation of flood disaster relief centers. Special care will be taken for cleanliness in the preparation and serving of food in disaster relief centers. Adequate arrangements for hand sanitizer and handwash will be made at all places like cooking, serving and washing utensils etc. Shift arrangements to stagger the time of feeding and strict adherence to

social distancing norms should be followed. All the officers / employees attached in the disaster relief center will inevitably use masks and sanitizers.

9. Arrangement of medicine for people

In the context of COVID infection, make sure to assess and store essential medicines in consultation with the District Magistrate (DM) and the Civil Surgeon. In the event of floods, there is a possibility of outbreak of various water borne diseases. Therefore, adequate storage of snakebite medicines, chlorine tablets, ORS solution packets, halogen tablets, anti-rabies needles, antibiotics, bleaching powder etc. should be done at district hospitals / subdivision and referral hospitals / first aid centers and first aid sub-centers.

10. Mobile Medical Team and Medical Camps

Necessary doctors / paramedical staff should be provided for medical camps at all flood relief/shelter sites as much as possible. Set up medical camps for large flood relief/shelter sites and set up mobile medical teams for the remaining flood relief/shelter sites. Two or three flood relief sites will be associated with each mobile team. The medical team should be deputed at the respective flood relief/shelter locations before the stipulated time.

11. Animal feed and medicine

During the rainy season, during the floods, animal resources fall victim to various types of diseases. Ensure arrangement of veterinary camps near the selected shelter sites. During flood, verify that this camp is working. Regarding the availability of veterinary medicines required for animals, review with the District Animal Husbandry Officer (DAHO) and ensure its availability in consultation with the Department of Animal and Fisheries Resources (AFRD) as required. The availability and requirement of animal feed along with animal shelter sites in flood prone districts should be assessed in advance.

12. Arrangement of pure drinking water

For the provision of pure drinking water in flood-affected villages, arrangements should be made in advance regarding the arrangement of installation of handpumps at high places and transportation of drinking water etc. Adequate number of chlorine tablets should be arranged to ensure the purity of drinking water and training of use of these tablets in flood prone panchayats should be ensured through Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) ahead of time.

13. Arrangement of Generator set, petromax and large nets

The availability of generator sets, petromax, tent, empty cement sacks, etc. should be specially mapped and the list of their suppliers should be decided by the fare. The districts have been instructed to purchase large nets in the past. Where the purchase of the large nets has not been done so far, the purchase of the large nets should be done in time. On receipt of the requisition, funds will be made available for the net.

14. Availability of food grains in state food corporation godowns, and identifying and marking of godowns for the availability of food grains as and when required

The food grains available in the state food corporation godowns should be assessed and the storage should be ensured as per the need before the probable floods. For this very purpose, government private buildings at the panchayat and block level should be identified, which can be used as distribution centers for free food grains. The payment of outstanding dues to the State Food Corporation should be made soon.

15. Repair of roads

The main roads of the district connecting the block/circles with the district headquarters should be repaired before the floods. The bridges

and culverts should also be repaired to make them accessible for traffic during floods.

16. Contingency planning and arrangement for boats/life jackets/motorboats

There may be a need to save people at any time from any place within the district during floods. Therefore, a contingency plan should be prepared for the deployment of boats, life jackets, motorboats etc. DMD has trained the personnel of the Griha Rakhsa Vahini in the motorboat operations in the districts, and they have also been provided with the kit of disaster relief and rescue teams. Therefore, a plan should also be chalked out for deputation of the personnel of the Griha Rakhsa Vahini trained in motorboat operations in the districts.

17. Nodal Officer / District Level Task Force

The critical aspect of the pre-flood preparedness is the best use of available human resources. Nomination of nodal officers, their training, deputation at block, subdivision and district level, deputation of regional supervisors and their training, deputation of volunteers trained in search and rescue operations, motorboat drivers etc. should be done before June 15. Coordination of human resources is necessary for their best of use. At the district level, the task force of the district level officials

of all the departments related to the flood should be constituted under the chairmanship of the DM. This task force should meet from time to time to review the preparations for the floods by various departments.

18. District Emergency Operation Center and Control Room

Similar to the state level operations, a permanent District Emergency Operations Center and Control Room (DEOC) equipped with communication systems has also been established at the district level. Before the flood, a list of search and rescue equipment available in the district should be prepared and kept in the said control room. Toll free telephone / telephone should be arranged in the control room, so that information can be obtained from the general public from various areas at the earliest. A preferred officer should be made in charge of the control room. The District Control Room will always be in touch with the State Control Room.

19. Training for the divers

Divers have been trained to rescue people from drowning and recover bodies of submerged people during flood disaster and boat accident and have also been provided relief-relief kits. The list of these trained divers along with the mobile / telephone number should be maintained in the control room (DEOC) of the district and they should be used as necessary. Directorate Departmental letter - 1638, dated - June 20, regarding the use of trained home guards and selected persons of the community as divers in search, rescue and relief operations during floods from July 01 to 30 September and daily wages 2018 and letter -

4400 dated - December 12, 2011 are sent to you and are also available on the departmental website. Directions relating to the use of trained house guards and selected persons of the community as divers in search, rescue and relief operations during floods from 1 July to 30 September and daily wage honorarium/allowance has been stated in the departmental letter - 1638, dated - June 20, 2018 and letter - 4400 dated - December 12, 2011. The same has been sent and is also available on the departmental website.

20. Training of the community

The local community is the first responder at the time of any disaster. Youths from flood prone panchayats especially from weaker sections, and scheduled caste groups were identified, and they have undergone the capacity building exercise. The village community can take help of these trained youths for relief and rescue operations during floods.

21. Formation of relief and rescue teams

The trained persons from the community in the flood prone blocks, such as trained divers, block/zone personnel, skilled health workers, home guards, civil defense and police personnel together should be constituted as "Relief and Rescue Team" for relief and rescue operations work during floods and their detailed information should be maintained at the District Control Room (DEOC).

22. Mock exercise and mock drill

For flood preparedness, mock exercise and mock drill with volunteers/ field staff/NGOs should be conducted at regular intervals through online/virtual in the context of COVID.

23. Formulation of Contingency Crop Scheme

Contingency crop planning for flood affected areas should be developed by the Agriculture Department (AD), GoB. The plan will include a scheme which will provide an opportunity to the farmers to receive paddy saplings due to the loss of paddy crop / saplings. Additionally, the scheme will also have the option to provide an alternative crop to the farmers from the affected areas.

At the district level, a meeting should be held at the earliest to review the action taken in relation to pre-flood preparedness and inform the DMD regarding the preparations. Pre-flood preparedness will be reviewed the Department in due course through video conferencing and meetings at the divisional level.

Hope all the districts are fully prepared to deal with the possible floods this year. We will do it so that we can be successful in providing relief to the common people from the flood disaster.

Translated from the original document in Hindi by Disaster Management Department, Government of Bihar.

Link to original: <https://state.bihar.gov.in/cache/7/Old%20Office%20Document/Old%20Circulars/1721.pdf>