

## Emergency response timeline

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#### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17

All agencies aware of expected heavy rain and possible flooding at the end of the week

#### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18

Flooding starts in Appleby as warnings of heavy rain and gales across west Cumbria are forecast.

**12.34pm:** The Met Office issues an 'extreme' weather warning for parts of Cumbria – flood warnings issued on Cumbrian rivers.

All agencies alerted by the police and put on standby.

#### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19

**8am:** As rainfall intensifies police declare an 'unusual incident'. Emergency responders put on standby.

**10am:** Evacuation takes place in parts of Keswick including a residential home. Some roads in Keswick and Kendal become impassable.

**11am:** Cockermouth School closes and its Eco Centre becomes a reception centre.

**2pm:** As the situation worsens the police declare a 'major incident' activating the emergency response. Flood defences overtop in Keswick, Kendal and Cockermouth

**4pm:** Gold command is set up at police HQ in Penrith.

**6pm:** West coast mainline temporarily closes after a landslip near Shap.

**7.30pm:** Ulverston Victoria High School opens as a reception centre.

**9pm:** Mainflooding occurs in North Lonsdale Road area of Ulverston.

**10pm:** Firefighters and RAF rescue 200 people, via helicopter, from Cockermouth's Main Street and The Square, which are cut off by flood water. They are moved to a reception centre at Cockermouth.

Major rescue operation underway in Cockermouth and Keswick involving police, firefighters, mountain rescue teams, RNLI, RAF and the army.

Workington begins to be affected including the police station and homes nearby.

#### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20

**1.45am:** Water levels continue to rise in Cockermouth and Keswick.

**4am:** Flood levels in Cockermouth and Keswick begin to stabilise.

**5.12am:** Northside Bridge at Workington collapses. Police Officer reported missing.

**6.45am:** Low Lorton Bridge reported to have collapsed as well as Southwaite footbridge in Cockermouth.

**9am:** Environment Secretary Hilary Benn arrives in Cockermouth to assess the flood damage. River levels begin to drop except on Derwent and Eden.

**10am:** Casualty bureau opens for the public to report family members they have not heard from.

**11.58am:** Body of police officer found on beach between Maryport and Allonby. Identified as PC Bill Barker.

**1pm:** Evacuation of Cockermouth ongoing. More than 250 people sheltering in rescue centres in Cockermouth and Keswick. Little Braithwaite Bridge near Keswick collapses as water is diverted across the A66 by rubble.

**2pm:** Cumbria Community Foundation launches fundraising appeal to help flood victims.

**5pm:** Property searches ongoing in Cockermouth.

#### SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21

- Prime Minister Gordon Brown visits Cockermouth and announces £1m of funding to help households and businesses. A further £1m is donated from the Northwest Development Agency.

- Concern grows for the closed Calva Bridge in Workington as cracks appear in its structure.

- Cumbria County Council holds the first meeting of the flood recovery group.

- Nearly 1,300 bridges are visually checked for structural damage as Papcastle Bridge near Cockermouth is temporarily closed – creating a diversion of over 40 miles from north to south Workington.

#### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22

- All house to house searches completed in Cockermouth.

- Papcastle Bridge re-opens after checks carried out by structural engineers confirmed its safety.

#### MONDAY NOVEMBER 23

- Homeowners and businesses in Cockermouth allowed back into their flooded properties for the first time.

- Gold command scales down and Cumbria County Council takes formal responsibility for recovery.

- Traffic problems because of collapsed bridges begin.

#### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24

- Reception centres close.

- Businesses in Cockermouth set up new 'shops' in Mitchell's Auction Market.

- David Cameron visits Cockermouth and praises community spirit.

#### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25

- Transport Minister Sadiq Khan visits Workington to view the flood damage.

- Jabs given to those involved in the clean-up and emergency services as health precaution.

- Extra train services in operation between Maryport and Workington after hundreds were left stranded at stations due to

demand.