8.6 Preparing for a Flood – Guidance and Best Practice from CDOIF (UK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OECD GP Activity</th>
<th>UN SF Activity</th>
<th>UN SD Goals / Targets</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Natech risk in regulations, standards, codes and guidance</td>
<td>2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk</td>
<td>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classification according to OECD Guiding Principles, UN Sendai Framework Priorities/Activities, and UN SDGs and Targets

Figure 1: Overview of flood preparedness improvement steps for COMAH establishments

Source: © CDOIF, 2017
Short Facts:

**Governance approach:** Guideline  
**Source:** Chemical and Downstream Oil Industry Forum (CDOIF) in the UK  
**Entry into force:**  
**Targeted Stakeholders:** operators of COMAH regulated establishments and other large industrial sites  
**Scope of applicability:** National, enterprises, sites

**Natural Hazard(s) Considered:**
- Flooding  
**Climate change:** Some information on extreme weather events caused by climate change, including flooding, may be obtained but is not a decisive factor in the guide

**Description**

The Chemical and Downstream Oil Industries Forum (CDOIF) was established in 1997 and has brought together industry, regulators, trade associations and other professional bodies to share the best information, guidance and best practice available for health, safety and environmental issues. Amongst others, the forum has brought up a guide and best practice examples referring to flooding hazards as it is the most occurring natural hazard event in the UK. The guide aims to spread awareness of risks and what measures could be taken to improve flood resilience. Furthermore, it helps operators review the measures in place to prevent or mitigate major accidents that are caused by flooding.

The guide is structured into four sections:

1. Preparing for a flood,
2. Giving flood warnings,
3. Responses to flooding events and
4. How to manage recovery afterwards.

Each section details on how to go about the activity within the section, offers a guidance and best practice examples, highlights some key organizations that can help develop flood mitigation and response measures for businesses and finally presents a number of the most relevant additional resources or paid-for services that may help with flood preparedness.

Also a reference on how to prepare a climate change adaption plan, published by the Chemical Business Association (CBA), Chemical Industries Association (CIA), and the Non-Ferrous Alliance (NFA) is shown in section one. It takes a broader look than just flooding, assessing risks from many extreme weather events caused by climate change.

By bringing together regulators, industry and other professional bodies, the CDOIF helps best at evolving pragmatic solutions and developing long-term strategies to ensure that businesses and workers are heard on the issues that matter within the industry.

**Link/Contact:**
https://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/COMAHSF/view?objectId=666405

**Comments by the UN/OECD Natech-Steering Group:**

This guidance considers response to and recovery from floods as well. The advice to combine flood risk management with plans for adaptation to climate change is very useful.