



How Prepared Are We?

From Heatwave Warnings to Flash Flooding UK weather warnings had focused on high temperatures, with amber and red alerts in place for the week. Many people were preparing for the effects of heat: older residents were advised to take extra care, everyone was encouraged to drink plenty of water, keep windows and doors closed, and draw curtains during the day. Schools announced closures, and some workplaces returned to working-from-home arrangements.

What no one foresaw was the sudden thunderstorm at 5pm on Monday 22 June. The skies darkened until it looked like midnight outside. Trees and shrubs bent in strong gusts, and an intense deluge quickly caused flash flooding across Wells. One particularly heavy burst delivered up to 25.4mm (1 inch) of rain in just 15 minutes.

Images of flooded roads soon appeared on Facebook. In the city centre, several shops suffered water ingress, damaging carpets and furnishings and forcing closures, including Tesco.

Being Ready Before an Emergency

So, what can we do? By coincidence, Wells City Council and Sustainable Wells had advertised a "Be Prepared" workshop, led by Somerset Rivers Authority, at the Town Hall for that same evening. Unsurprisingly, attendance was low: many residents were at home dealing with the immediate aftermath. The event's message remains important. Practical devices and equipment can help protect homes and businesses from flooding, while a simple household emergency plan can reduce stress and confusion when an incident begins.

Useful Resources

Somerset Prepared – Helping Somerset prepare, respond and recover from emergencies

Home – Flood Mary – <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/drain-and-gullies>