

# news release

17 March 2009

## Residents urged to sign up for free flood warnings

The Environment Agency is targeting Hovingham to encourage more residents to register for free flood warnings.

Staff will be visiting Hovingham, in North Yorkshire, on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, to sign up more people to the free **Floodline Warnings Direct** service.

37 properties in the village are at risk of flooding from the Hovingham Beck but currently none have registered to receive free warnings.

**Floodline Warnings Direct** sends an automatic message by landline, mobile, email or fax to those who have signed up, telling them when flooding is imminent and what action to take to protect their home or business.

Jon Knight will lead the campaign in Hovingham. His team works closely with local authorities and communities to increase awareness and resilience to flooding.

Jon urged anyone who has not signed up or taken action to prepare for flooding to do so.

He said: "We'll be knocking on people's doors to offer them the chance to sign up there and then – it literally takes a couple of minutes to register for something which could save you thousands of pounds.

"It's free to register and signing up couldn't be easier. Getting a flood warning from us can give you the time you need to protect yourself and your property from flooding.

The Environment Agency is committed to improving awareness and encouraging more people to find out how they can prepare for flooding. Climate change is bringing more extreme weather and increasing the likelihood of flooding, making it all the more important that householders and businesses learn how to protect themselves and their property.

To find out if your property is at risk of flooding and eligible for the **Floodline Warnings Direct** service, contact the Environment Agency's **Floodline on 0845 988 1188** or visit the website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**ENDS**

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