



Flash Floods, Edinburgh 8 July 2011

Homes, businesses and cars were hit by flooding during a heavy downpour across Edinburgh on 8 July 2011.

Witnesses reported cars floating in deep rivers running down roads in Morningside, Colinton and Oxgangs and some properties in Balcarres Street were flooded.



Emergency council teams were deployed in to help firefighters deal with the "huge volumes of water".

The flash floods were followed by a **Red Weather Warning** on Saturday 6 August 2011. A Red Warning is the highest tier of warning in the National Severe Weather Warning Service, and is only issued around 3 or 4 across the UK in a year.

The warning indicated that Persistent rain already across the area will turn very heavy at times through the remainder of Saturday night and Sunday morning and is expected to lead to flooding in places.

As a result of the warning emergency plans were activated and a Flood (Tactical) Group met at Police Headquarters in the early hours of Sunday Morning (7 August 2011).

In the end conditions were not as bad as anticipated and the Red Warning was reduced to Amber and the Flood Group stood down.

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Emergency Preparations Win Recognition for City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council has become the first urban local authority in the UK to gain a quality standard for its emergency preparation.

The 'business continuity management' accreditation, awarded by the British Standards Institute, recognises the Council's efforts to ensure it can continue to maintain its critical services during an incident or emergency affecting the Council.

The Council underwent a rigorous audit of the continuity processes and resources it has in place to keep its essential services running earlier this year, following two years' intensive work to prepare the organisation for threats to its business continuity.

Councillor Jenny Dawe, Council Leader, said: "We provide a huge range of vital services to the people and businesses of Edinburgh, so it's incredibly important that we take steps to maintain 'business as normal' despite events beyond our control. Inevitably, situations occur that disrupt life in the city, but the preparations we have taken will minimise that and provide reassurance that we are able to provide the most essential services."

The Council's actions have included training, emergency exercises and creating 'battle boxes' of key equipment in case staff have to relocate. It has also put in place back-up arrangements for information sharing, IT and essential supplies.

More information on the standard (BS2599) is available from the [British Standards Institute](#). The Council also urges other organisations to follow [business continuity advice](#) to ensure that they have their own plans in place.



Train Derailment, Edinburgh 27 July 2011

At 17:51 hrs on 27 July the 17:10 hrs an empty passenger train from Cowdenbeath to Edinburgh Waverley was passing over the junctions in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, at about 19 mph (30.5 km/h), when all wheels of the leading bogie of the last vehicle became derailed .

The train, which was crewed by a driver and a conductor, ran for about 90 metres before coming to a stop, and the derailed bogie caused damage to the track. There was also some damage to the underside of the train. No-one was hurt.

The RAIB's preliminary examination has found that the derailment occurred because the flanges of the wheels climbed over the left-hand switch rail of the points, which were heavily worn. Network Rail has examined the other switch rails in the Princes Street Gardens area, and has not found any others in a similar condition.

The driving of the train and the operation of the signalling system played no part in the causes of the accident.

The investigation will include an examination of the condition of the train and the track to establish the mechanism of the derailment. It will review the history of the points concerned and work that was carried out on them in the days before the accident, the competence and fitness of the maintenance staff, and the organisation and resourcing of infrastructure maintenance in the Edinburgh area.

The RAIB's investigation is independent of any investigations by the safety authority (the Office of Rail Regulation).

The RAIB will publish a report, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of its investigation. This report will be available on the [RAIB](#) website.



Visit to Edinburgh by Chinese Delegation

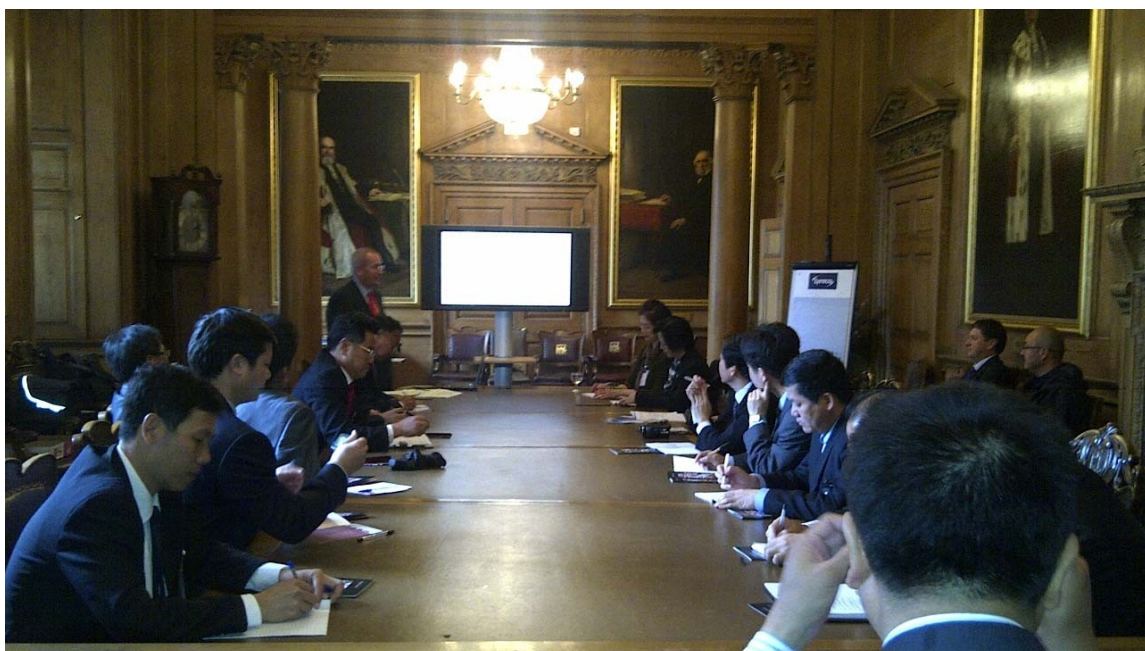
On 10 August 2011, the City of Edinburgh Council placed host to a delegation of around 20 senior officials from the Peoples Republic of China. This was the fourth such visit in recent years from different parts of China. This years delegation comprised representatives from Hainan Province:

Tom O'Brien, the Council's Group Leader (Public Safety and Events) gave a presentation on the Council's partnership approach to planning for major events, including Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party and high profile occasions such as the visit of Pope Benedict in September 2010.

Paul Young, Council Emergency Planning Officer, explained the structure and processes for integrated emergency management at local and national levels in the UK.

The delegates appeared to have a genuine interest in the subject matter and were most appreciative of the opportunity to spend some time in the City.

The Council's Health and Social Care and Emergency Planning services also hosted a visit from a Russian delegation, in June 2007, following the Beslan school massacre in North Ossetia in 2004. The delegation's primary interest, at that time, was in the arrangements for the continuing care of victims of emergencies or disasters ."



Fire Hazlebank Terrace, Edinburgh 31 August 2011

Forty firefighters took more than seven hours to put out a blaze in a row of historic terraced houses in Edinburgh.

The alarm was raised at 5:20 when fire broke out at a ground-floor flat in Hazelbank Terrace. The fire spread through neighbouring flats and into the roof.

Firefighters said the narrow streets and historic nature of the colony buildings made it difficult to stop the spread of the fire, which was eventually extinguished at about 14:30.

There are no reports of anyone being injured. Neighbouring properties had to be evacuated and roads had to be closed.

A spokeswoman for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service said: "By 8.30am firefighters reported that the fire would not be spreading to any further properties."



Get Ready for Winter Campaign 24–28 October 2011

The Scottish Government in partnership with the British Red Cross and other responder organisations is organising a Get Ready for Winter awareness campaign from 24–28 October 2011.

A range of advice will be offered during the week about how individuals, families and businesses can take simple steps to prepare themselves for winter.

Further information will shortly be available on the [Ready Winter](#) Web-Site.

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