



Predictability and warnings of the East Coast Surge - December 5-6th 2013

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The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) is a partnership between the UK Met Office and the Environment Agency, established in 2009 to provide an operational early warning system for flood risk across England and Wales. Since 2011, the FFC has delivered its 24/7 forecasting service from the Operations Centre at the Met Office in Exeter, primarily for the emergency response community - providing forecasts for all sources of flooding, namely fluvial, coastal, surface water and groundwater.

A case study is presented for the surge event of December 5-6th 2013 when an Atlantic storm tracked to the north of Scotland. Strong north-westerly winds to the rear of the storm lead to a storm surge down both the West and East coasts of the UK, which coincided with high spring tides. For the East coast, total water levels were comparable with the catastrophic North Sea flood of 1953 when there were 326 fatalities in the UK. However, due to a range of measure now in place, no fatalities occurred due to the flooding in 2013.

The presentation will focus on the benefits of a joint operational centre, the ability to draw on the skills of scientists during extreme events, the benefits of ensemble systems in providing the required lead time, and the key aspects of communication to emergency responders and Central Government.