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Young people are least aware of 'catastrophic' impact from flooding

YOUNG PEOPLE are the least aware of the "catastrophic" dangers of flooding and what to do if flood warnings are issued, research has suggested.

The Environment Agency and British Red Cross are urging younger people to learn how to look after themselves and their communities in times of flooding. The call comes after research by the Environment Agency revealed 18 to 34-year-olds are least likely to know if where they live is at risk of flooding and how to protect their homes and possessions from flood waters.

Less than half of those under 35 would know what to do if a flood warning was issued, the research shows.

More than five million homes and businesses in England are at risk of flooding, with flood damage to a home costing £30,000 on average, and scientific projec-

tions show the risk of floods in the UK will increase with climate change, the Environment Agency said.

Caroline Douglass, director of incident management and resilience at the Environment Agency, said: "The terrible impacts of flooding can last long after the flood waters have receded. But simple actions can lessen the damage to your home, protect your wellbeing and help you recover more quickly."

Simon Lewis, head of emergency response at the British Red Cross, said: "Flooding can have a catastrophic impact on homes and communities, causing untold damage to the things and the people we treasure most.

"That's why it's vital we all know what to do, and how to help, to lessen the impact and help communities rebuild and recover faster."