

FACTSHEET RISK COMMUNICATION MEASURES

Individual risk assessment with the use of the flood protection certificate (HWVA)

Where was it implemented?

Oderwitz and Leutersdorf, Saxony, Germany

Fields of action

Risk communication

Related to measure from the catalogue of measures

- Flood protection certificates for buildings
- Interactive communication and participation formats

Target group

private property owners

Problem

According to the Federal Water Act of Saxony, every person that might be affected by floodings, is obligated to take measures as far as possible to protect themselves against damages and to mitigate losses. Especially properties have to be adapted to prevent adverse impacts on humankind, environment or material values by floods. (§5(2) WHG - the legal situation might be different in other countries)

Am I affected by floods? Which measures might be suitable and what does it cost? Which kind of use of my property contributes to a higher flood risk and should be avoided? Such questions are raised by property owners, esp. homeowners in Germany, but cannot be answered by themselves. An expert for damages caused by floods is required.

Kontakt

Das Kompetenzzentrum Hochwassereigenvorsorge Sachsen bietet umfangreiche Informationen zu den verschiedenen Themen der Hochwassereigenvorsorge und vermittelt den Kontakt zu den Hochwassereigenvorsorgeexperten.

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Hochwasservorsorgeausweis
Überflutungsschäden an Gebäuden wirksam mindern

Allgemeines

Für die Sicherung des Grund- und Gebäudevermögens ist jeder Bürger selbst in der Pflicht, Eigenvorsorge in eine wirksame Möglichkeit, Schäden durch Hochwasser zu vermeiden oder wenigstens zu verringern.

Wie läuft das Verfahren ab?
Zunächst findet ein Vor-Ort-Termin statt, wobei der Sachkundige das Grundstück, dessen Umfeld und das Gebäude begutachtet. Mögliche Eintrittspunkte des Wassers werden in Abhängigkeit von einer speziellen Überflutungssituation identifiziert.

Die Bewertungsdiagramme ermöglichen die objektive Beurteilung der Schadenanfälligkeit eines Gebäudes gegenüber Überflutung vor und nach der Umsetzung von Vorsorge- und Anpassungsmaßnahmen.

Beispiel

Schadenanfälligkeit eines Gebäudes durch Flusshochwasser im 10-Stunden

5,2

9,7

Planzustand nach Umsetzung empfohlener Vorsorge- und Anpassungsmaßnahmen

Official flyer of the flood protection certificate published by the competence centre for private flood prevention Saxony. URL: <https://www.bdz-hochwassereigenvorsorge.de/de/was-bieten-wir-an/hochwasservorsorgeausweis.html> (04.03.3030)

Description and aim

Prior to a public event in Oderwitz “Facing heavy rain, floods and soil erosion”, the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology and the municipalities Oderwitz and Leutersdorf commissioned a Saxon engineering company to prepare an experts opinion for two typical, previously affected homesteads in Oderwitz and Leutersdorf. In accordance with both homeowners, results of both reports and related private mitigation measures taken have been presented and discussed during the public event.

The initiative aimed to identify the concrete need and possibilities of private mitigation in case of a heavy rain event. However, the main focus was set upon the sensitisation of all participants regarding their legal obligation for self-provision. Therefore, best practise examples from their own living environment were presented, showing possible solutions to reduce negative consequences by suitable (con)structural measures.

Furthermore, the measure aimed at testing the Saxon flood protection certificate (German: Hochwasservorsorgeausweis (HWVA)). It is a valid tool for supporting private self-provision in Saxony (cf. Stich 2018). This offering was promoted, but weaknesses were also pointed out. In sum, the presentation of this tool was appreciated and regarded as successful.

Effect of measure	
<p>Experts' opinions brought certainty that privately taken prevention measures were suitable and actually mitigate the risk for those property owners who took part in the report. Other affected property owners gained knowledge about the concept and principle of the flood protection certificate. It served as an orientation for further action. Employees of the municipal administration recognised by positive feedback of participants that the topic needs to be coped with more offensive in the future. The municipal administration has hoped that the overall pressure to implement (con)structural measures will decrease when all participants become aware of the fact that flood risk management is a joint task, but expectations were not fulfilled (cf. Ulbrich 2019). Initiators gained knowledge about the effectiveness, but also weaknesses of this offering (cf. "lessons-learned" below).</p>	
Description of implementation	
<p>Effect horizon: short-/medium-/long-term</p>	<p>Involved stakeholders: general public (esp. affected property owners, experts who are allowed to issue a certificate, municipal administrations)</p>
<p>Initiator/responsible: RAINMAN, municipal administrations</p>	
Lessons-learned	
<p>Main success factor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert's opinions are multiplied - e.g. at events • House owners are eager to learn from each other and from best practise examples - esp. public buildings should act as a role model 	<p>Main challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and its aftermath is causing emotional stress and trauma • Encouraging house owners to take responsibility for protecting the own house from being flooded • Situation-adjusted solutions are required - applicated knowledge for a certain building might not fit for others • Commissioning of an professional report is expensive - governmental incentive is needed
<p>Synergies / beneficial aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Germany, there also exist other, comparable tools. The opportunity to consult an expert for a professional opinion exists everywhere. 	<p>Conflicts / constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litigations or unresolved conflicts (between property owners and the municipality or amongst property owners) overshadow the positive effect of the events and its knowledge transfer. • The certificate is only valid for flow velocities up to 1 m/s. Higher flow velocities may lead to structural damages on the building which are not covered by the applied method.
Key message to others starting with a similar task	Contact
<p>Consult an expert if you are willing to carry out property protection measures! Take the local risk in your planning and construction phase into account.</p>	<p>Municipality of Oderwitz Straße der Republik 54 02791 Oderwitz E-Mail: gemeinde@oderwitz.de</p>
<p>Further information (in German)</p>	<p>Stich, Gabriele (2018): Der Sächsische Hochwasservorsorgeausweis - ein Angebot des Kompetenzzentrums Hochwassereigenvorsorge Sachsens, in: Forum Hochwasserrisikomanagement - Tagungsband zur 10. Veranstaltung am 21. Juni 2018 in Dresden; Berichtsreihe des Forums zum Hochwasserrisikomanagement, S. 61-62.</p> <p>Jana Ulbrich (2019): Wie lebt man mit der Hochwasser-Gefahr? in: Sächsische.de, 18.04.2019, URL: https://www.saechsische.de/plus/wie-lebt-man-mit-der-hochwasser-gefahr-5059869.html.</p>