RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEN Faced WITH FLOOD RISK

**Remain informed** at all times of the evolution of potential weather changes

**At home**
Move essential items to upper floors; close the electricity and gas mains, and follow the instructions provided by the authorities in the event of an evacuation.

**If you are driving**
- **Slow down.**
- Drive primarily on *main roads* and motorways.
- **Do not drive** through flooded areas or stop where large amounts of water may flow.
- **Abandon** your car and look for higher ground when you are surrounded by water. Do not try to save your car in a flood.
- **Do not park** your car in areas at risk of flooding as it could be swept away by the water.

**In the country**
Keep away from rivers, torrents and lower parts of hillsides, and avoid crossing flooded fords.
Go to the highest points in the area.
EU Riwaterex 2018 is a large-scale international exercise, with a flood scenario in the Jarama River basin, which will prompt several types of emergencies, leading to the mobilisation of national and international teams.

Flood contention, water pumping and depletion, vertical rescues in caves and aquatic environments, neutralising chemical spills and providing medical care to victims are just some of the activities that will be rehearsed.

This exercise represents an opportunity to strengthen the National Civil Protection System and the cooperation between the member states of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Approximately 700 people will be taking part, in addition to teams from Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal and Romania.

Their main goals are the following:

♦ Encourage the mutual integration of European response capacity and that which is the responsibility of the Spanish National Civil Protection System, and verify the resource mobilisation procedures of the European Emergency Response Capacity.

♦ Demonstrate in a practical way the response capacity of the Spanish National Civil Protection System in large-scale emergencies caused by floods in densely-populated areas.

♦ Design and test operational response procedures called into action.

♦ Promote the collaboration of the Spanish National Civil Protection System and the European Civil Protection Mechanism in capacity certification and registration.

♦ Practice activating the European Earth Observation Programme, Copernicus, and integrate it into national procedures.
EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

The European Civil Protection Mechanism was created in 2001 to encourage the cooperation between the national civil protection authorities of the different European countries. It currently brings together the 28 EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey.

It consists of coordinating aid provided by participating Member States to victims of natural and human disasters.

In November 2017, in response to numerous recent crises, the European Commission launched the rescEU initiative, to increase the efficiency of the response to the European Mechanism and strengthen the means available to Member States when responding to disasters (including forest fires, heavy floods, terrorist attacks, earthquakes, etc.). Spain has actively joined this initiative.

The General Direction of Civil Protection and Emergencies is the focal point in Spain of the European Civil Protection Mechanism.
PARTICIPANTS: