



# flood warning signs

a powerful new way to protect vehicles and save lives

**Designed by Scrimsign, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and Dorset Highways Department.**

The new Vehicle Activated Flood Warning Signs are designed to operate automatically to improve road safety 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without the need for mains power or user intervention.

Sturdy and reliable, the signs use Radio Telemetry to receive live Flood Status information directly from the nearest Outstations that monitor the river levels with embedded river sensors. When approached under normal conditions, the sign will display a steady 'Ford' warning. Once automatically triggered by a Flood Imminent Status from the Outstation, the sign will display a flashing 'Flood' warning to emphasise the hazard ahead.

For rural areas, where mains power is not easily accessible, and for Accident Blackspots around the UK, the new Vehicle Activated Flood Warning Signs from Scrimsign are the most reliable, most accurate and most cost-effective way to improve road user safety.

## key benefits

- Real Time River Levels & Advanced Flood Warning
- 24/7 Constant Operation
- Automatic, Unmanned System
- High Visibility LED Flashing Flood Display
- Usable in remote locations without mains power
- No Maintenance; solar panel weather resistant & self-cleaning



## customer justification & benefits

**In flood events over the past few years the country has experienced scores of incidents where people have had to be rescued from vehicles that have become stranded in dangerous floodwaters.**

Not only is this a vast expense to the Emergency Services but also poses a very real risk to life and indeed last winter at least 5 people lost their lives due to floodwater on fords and roads. Every year fatalities under distressing circumstances such as these are recorded.

### The Technology

The trial involves measuring the level in a river close to a ford or road liable to flooding using well proven technology. Using a radio link the telemetry unit triggers an alarm signal which can change the message displayed on the sign from 'Ford' to a pulsing 'Flood'. Critically the signs are located at the point of decision for motorists – which may be more than a mile distant.

The signs themselves have either mains or solar power supply options, and a range of settings allowing them to be situated in a variety of different locations. The signs are able to relay information back to the Environment Agency's incident room, including their current status, battery strength and even the number of vehicles that pass.

### The Project

The project is a partnership with Dorset County Highways and Dorset Fire and Rescue who have detailed records of 'black spots' involving rescue from vehicles. The first installation has been made at Fifehead Neville in Dorset, where there was a fatality in 2003/4, when a car was swept away and became wedged under a footbridge just downstream.

The Environment Agency selected Scrimsign as partners in this exciting field trial following the very successful installation of interactive Flood Warning signs on the Isle of Portland. Reliability and rugged design were identified as being critical to the success of the trial.

Scrimsign designed and manufactured eight signs, which will be installed at three sites. Initial response to the signs has been very positive.

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Developed in association with:

