

## Karlstad is getting ready!

## Karlstad, Sweden

Population: 85,000

Type of hazard: Floods

Located midway between Stockholm to the east and Oslo to the west, Karlstad sits on the river delta where the Klarälven River, Sweden's longest river, runs into the Vänern, the country's largest lake, which is seen as an inland sea. Many towns in Sweden, including Karlstad, are annually damaged by floods. The risks can be limited through preventative measures, planning and effective response operations.

## **Disaster Risk Reduction activities**

Karlstad is home to the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), which compiles and maintains general flood inundation maps for areas at risk. The maps are used for various risk and vulnerability analyses, emergency preparedness and land use planning by municipalities. This watercourse model can also be used during the emergency stages of a flood to calculate probable water levels and the development of water discharges during the flood.

Every year MSB monitors the development of spring floods by collating details from the county administrative boards about water discharges. This information is submitted on a weekly basis to the Ministry of Defence. In this way, early signals are received about the need for materiel and other resources in the event of high-water discharges and flooding.



Being located on one of northern Europe's largest deltas, Karlstad is facing large risks of flooding. We also know that the flooding risk for lakes and watercourses will increase in the near future. Karlstad Municipality will through operative, technical and planning measures prepare itself to be able to meet the threat of floods and to minimise damages when a flooding occurs.

Birgitta Samuelsson, Mayor of Karlstad