

## Piolenc, France

### Main characteristics

**Major type of flood:** Fluvial and flash floods

**Size of catchment area:** 54 km<sup>2</sup> for Rieu de foyro, 70,000 km<sup>2</sup> for the Rhone River and 1,100 km<sup>2</sup> for the Aygues River

**Past flood events:** The last major floods occurred in 1993/1994 (both on the Rhône and tributaries) and in September 2002 (flash floods) and in 2003 on the Rhône river and tributaries

**Environmental setting:** Piolenc is prone to the flash floods from the Rieu de Foyro and the Aygues as well as fluvial flooding of the Rhône River. The Rhone River floods are slow rising flood but they spread over a large low plain and can trigger significant damage especially relating to industrial and nuclear plants. The Aygues and Rieu du Foyro trigger flash floods in the autumn.



Flood of sept 2002 in the centre of Piolenc

### Level of stakeholder involvement

- Municipality authority involved in the preparation and the participation in a December 2010 workshop
- Fire services at local and Départemental levels participated in the workshop

### CRUE Activities

The flood emergency plan for the Pilonc commune had the worst score using the developed metrics of all the plans that were evaluated as part of the research in France. This plan provided a good opportunity to test the framework that was developed as part of the project and to use it for enhancing the emergency plan. A workshop was held with stakeholders in December 2010. Ways in which the current flood emergency plan can be improved have been agreed by the stakeholders. One of these measures was the setting up of a flood warning system in the commune. However, the existing data coupled with financial meant that the commune was not in a position to implement all the measures that were identified as part of the workshop.

### Specific outcomes

- Case study reports have been disseminated to all the stakeholders.
- A warning system is about to be set up on the Rieu de Foyro basin.

### Lessons learnt

The workshop used the framework developed as part of the research was useful. It highlighted the shortcomings and "bottlenecks" relating to emergency management in the commune when it faces a large event. The debate created by the stakeholders is likely to be useful in many other communes where the emergency plan for floods comprises a paper report that has been put together to meet legal or regulatory requirements but is not necessarily "operational efficiency".

### CRUE Project

Flood Incident Management – A Framework for improvement (FIM FRAME) Funded from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2011 within the 2<sup>nd</sup> CRUE Funding initiative "Flood resilient Communities".

### Partners

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Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées, France  
University of Montpellier III, France  
Deltares, The Netherlands

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