

Storm Christoph: Helicopter crew rescues family trapped by floods

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A helicopter crew had to rescue a family trapped at home by floodwater.

The two adults and a six-year-old child were up to their knees in water at their isolated property near Rossett, Wrexham, on the banks of the River Dee.

A woman living near the same river, was also rescued by a crew who paddled half a mile to the house. A severe flood warning remains in place for north Wales after Storm Christoph, and also the whole of Wales is braced for snow and ice across the weekend.

Gemma Egerton-Brooks was airlifted to safety at midnight on Thursday with husband Pete, son Alfie, two dogs and whatever they could carry.

"I watched the footage of the rescue this morning and it made me cry," she said.

"During the rescue you just think about getting out. It didn't sink in until this morning and I burst into tears."

After staying overnight at the nearby Grosvenor Hotel, the family are now waiting at Mrs Egerton-Brooks' parents until it is safe to return home and assess the damage.



The family was taken to safety after being rescued by the Coastguard during the storm.

(Film clip is available on the BBC page, link at the end of the article)

"The water was knee height when we called the emergency services. By the time we left it was waist height. We don't know what we're going back to. It's heart-breaking," she said.

"The helicopter arrived at midnight because they couldn't get the rescue boat to us, it wasn't safe. It was horrible.

"I went up first, then a coastguard got my son Alfie strapped to himself, then Pete, then the dogs and a bag of clothes. It was surreal.

"I was trying to keep my six-year-old calm, while trying not to cry myself. We were all cold and wet and in shock.

"We owe our lives to HM Coastguard and we're so grateful to the hotel staff and people in the village."

Meanwhile, the woman rescued by boat lives in a remote property near the River Dee, east of Wrexham Industrial Estate.

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The scene from the Egerton-Brooks family home (pic: Gemma Egerton-Brooks)

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-55763192>