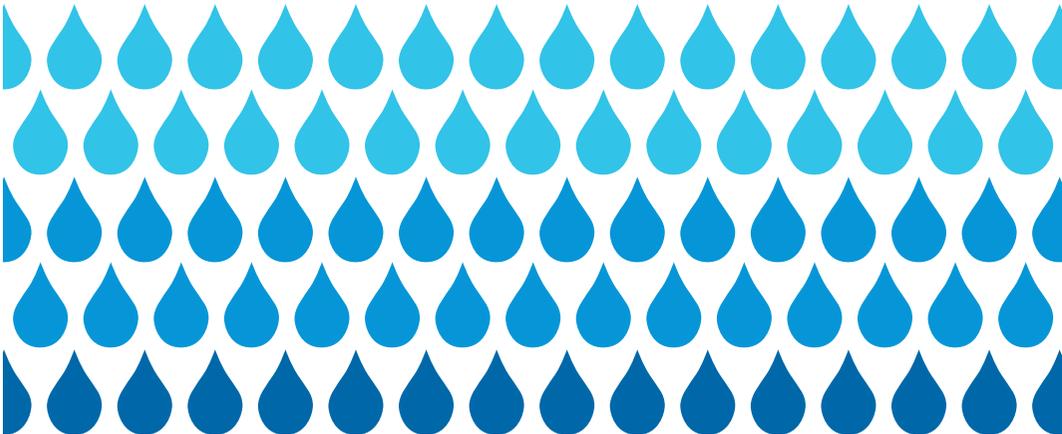


Flood warnings

What they are and what they do

A guide to the Environment Agency's flood warning codes



We are the Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it **a better place** – for you, and for future generations.

Your environment is the air you breathe, the water you drink and the ground you walk on. Working with business, Government and society as a whole, we are making your environment cleaner and healthier.

The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a better place.

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*Approximate call costs: 8p plus 6p per minute (standard landline).
Please note charges will vary across telephone providers.

What counts in a flood is good information you can act on...

Whether we like it or not, floods happen. Over the years, forecasting techniques have improved, giving us more time to prepare for flooding.

The Environment Agency is here to help. We are responsible for issuing flood warnings throughout England and Wales.

We help by:

- Building and maintaining flood defences.
- Issuing flood warnings.
- Working with partners on multi-agency flood response.
- Sharing accurate flood risk information and advice.

Flood Warnings

Everyone needs to understand our flood warnings and know what to do when they receive them. Our service includes three types of warning – Flood Alert, Flood Warning and Severe Flood Warning. Each warning type is triggered by particular weather, river or sea conditions which cause flooding.

The examples in this document are a guide to how the different warnings are used, to provide the public with advance notice of flooding and advice on what to do.

<h2>Three-day flood risk forecast</h2>	 FLOOD ALERT	 FLOOD WARNING	 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	<h2>Warning no longer in force</h2>
<p>What it means Be aware. Think ahead. Keep an eye on the weather situation.</p>	<p>What it means Flooding is possible. Be prepared.</p>	<p>What it means Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.</p>	<p>What it means Severe flooding. Danger to life.</p>	<p>What it means No further flooding is currently expected for your area.</p>
<p>When it's used Daily forecasts of flood risk on our website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. These are updated more frequently for higher flood risk situations.</p>	<p>When it's used Two hours to two days in advance of flooding.</p>	<p>When it's used Half an hour to one day in advance of flooding.</p>	<p>When it's used When flooding poses a significant risk to life or significant disruption to communities.</p>	<p>When it's used When a flood warning or severe flood warning is no longer in force.</p>
<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information updated daily on the Environment Agency website. The information includes the current and forecast situation and how this is likely to affect each county in England and Wales over the next three days. 	<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forecasts that indicate that flooding from rivers may be possible. Forecast intense rainfall for rivers that respond very rapidly. Forecasts of high tides, surges or strong winds. 	<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High tides, surges coupled with strong winds. Heavy rainfall forecast to cause flash flooding of rivers. Forecast flooding from rivers. 	<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual flooding where the conditions pose a significant risk to life and/or widespread disruption to communities. On-site observations from flooded locations. A breach in defences or failure of a barrier that is likely to cause significant risk to life. Discussions with partners. 	<p>Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of flooding has passed. River or sea levels have dropped back below severe flood warning or flood warning levels. No further flooding is expected. Professional judgment and discussions with partners agree that a severe flood warning status is no longer needed.
<p>Impact on the ground Maps will show one of four levels of risk for each county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green = no risk of flooding Yellow = low risk of flooding Amber = medium risk of flooding Red = high risk of flooding 	<p>Impact on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of fields, recreation land and car parks. Flooding of minor roads. Flooding of farmland. Spray or wave overtopping on the coast. 	<p>Impact on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of homes and businesses. Flooding of rail infrastructure. Flooding of roads with major impacts. Significant waves and spray on the coast. Extensive flood plain inundation (including caravan parks or campsites). Flooding of major tourist/recreational attractions. 	<p>Impact on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep and fast flowing water. Debris in the water causing danger. Potential or observed collapse of buildings and structures. Communities isolated by flood waters. Critical infrastructure for communities disabled. Large number of evacuees. Military support. 	<p>Impact on the ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new impacts expected from flooding, however there still may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> standing water following flooding; flooded properties; flooding or damaged infrastructure.
<p>Advice to the public/media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the forecast on our website. Remain aware of the impending weather conditions for your area. 	<p>Advice to the public/media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be prepared to act on your flood plan. Prepare a flood kit of essential items. Avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. Farmers should consider moving livestock and equipment away from areas likely to flood. Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for up-to-date flooding information. Monitor local water levels on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. 	<p>Advice to the public/media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect yourself, your family and help others. Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. Put flood protection equipment in place. If you are caught in a flash flood, get to higher ground. Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for up-to-date information. 	<p>Advice to the public/media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in a safe place with a means of escape. Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. Co-operate with the emergency services. Call 999 if you are in immediate danger. Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for up-to-date flooding information. 	<p>Advice to the public/media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be careful. Flood water may still be around for several days and could be contaminated. If you've been flooded, ring your insurance company as soon as possible.
<p>Advice to operational organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three-day forecast is the public facing version of the Flood Guidance Statement that category 1 and 2 responders receive. Advice for organisations varies depending on the level of flood risk and is provided on the Flood Guidance Statement issued by the Flood Forecasting Centre. 	<p>Advice to operational organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your flood response plans to see how your organisation needs to respond. Speak to your local Environment Agency Flood Warning Duty Officer for the latest forecast information. Dial into Flood Advisory Service teleconferences. Advise the public to call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for up-to-date flooding information. Please report any flooding in your area to your local Environment Agency office. 	<p>Advice to operational organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check flood response plans for actions required at this stage. Speak to your local Environment Agency Flood Warning Duty Officer for the latest forecast information. Advise the public to call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for up-to-date flooding information. Please report any flooding in your area to your local Environment Agency office. 	<p>Advice to operational organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check flood response plans for actions required at this stage. Advise the public to put their safety first and to be ready to evacuate should the authorities decide it's needed. Develop clear messages for local communities and the public. 	<p>Advice to operational organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery phase will have started. Advise the public to call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for advice on what to do if they have been affected by flooding.

Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?

Then call us on

08708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

Approximate call costs: 8p plus 6p per minute (standard landline).
Please note charges will vary across telephone providers.

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)

floodline 0845 988 1188 (24hrs)



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