



7 ALTERNATIVE FLOOD WARNING TRIGGERS

The Environment Agency's (EA) flood alerts and warnings cover the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea, and not from surface water flooding. Here are some alternative warnings you can use as triggers to put your flood plan into action.

#1 Met Office weather warnings

- **Yellow:** Be Aware that the situation may worsen, and prepare for possible disruption to plans.
- **Amber:** Be Prepared to follow the actions outlined on your flood plan.
- **Red:** Take action as there is extreme weather expected that may cause risk to life.

#3 Social Media



Search Twitter for tweets and updates in your local area by typing '#' followed by the name of your area in the search bar.

Join and follow any local flood groups on Facebook as well as your Local Authority's social media accounts for updates and information.

#5 Local news and radio

Keep up to date with news specific to your local area. This can provide useful information such as contact numbers and the location of evacuation centres.



#7 See it for yourself

Visible differences will be seen in watercourses such as rivers and streams, as well as the coast. This is most useful with small watercourses or those prone to flash flooding.

Gauge boards on rivers visually represent the current depth of water and are helpful with regular inspection.



#2 River and sea monitoring



Telemetry systems

These monitor watercourses to track various data including water levels, flow rates, rainfall, blockages and temperature. They can be set up by community groups and used as a trigger for when flooding is possible.

Gauge Map www.gaugemap.co.uk

Provides info from over 3,000 EA river and tidal monitoring stations. Each station has a Twitter account which posts updates every 15 mins at times of significant movement.

Digital watercams

Provides live video feeds from water cameras so you can check real-time conditions in your area. Data provided includes graphs of river levels, rainfall, tide times, and an archive of this data.

#4 Emergency App



Provided by the British Red Cross this is a free app offering alerts and information from the Met Office and EA.

You can add multiple places and people of interest to monitor, prepare emergency plans and take informative quizzes.

#6 Tide tables



Coastal communities can check tide timetables in times of bad weather. High tides coinciding with strong winds or decreased air pressure could cause surges or powerful waves, which may mean flooding is more likely.

Browse 'Tide Tables' on the BBC Weather site or other sites including www.tidetimes.co.uk which also has a Twitter page.