

ALTERNATIVE FLOOD WARNING TRIGGERS

The Environment Agency's (EA) flood alerts and warnings focus on the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea, excluding surface water flooding. Below are some alternative warnings you can use as triggers to activate your flood plan.

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.



Tide tables

Coastal communities can check tide timetables during periods of bad weather. High tides that coincide with strong winds or decreased air pressure may lead to surges or powerful waves, increasing the likelihood of flooding. For tide information, browse the 'Tide Tables' on the BBC Weather site or visit other resources like www.tidetimes.co.uk, which also has an X (previously Twitter) page for updates.

See it for yourself

Visible changes can be observed in watercourses, such as rivers and streams, as well as along the coast. This is particularly useful for small watercourses or those prone to flash flooding. Gauge boards installed on rivers visually represent the current water depth and are beneficial for regular monitoring.

Social Media

To find updates specific to your local area, search social media by typing '#' followed by the name of your area in the search bar. Additionally, consider joining and following local flood groups on Facebook, as well as your Local Authority's social media accounts, for timely updates and important information.

River and sea monitoring

Telemetry Systems

Telemetry systems monitor watercourses to track various data, including water levels, flow rates, rainfall, blockages, and temperature. These systems can be set up by community groups and serve as a trigger for potential flooding.

Gauge Map

Website: www.gaugemap.co.uk

Gauge Map provides information from over 3,000 Environment Agency river and tidal monitoring stations. Each station has a Twitter account that posts updates every 15 minutes during significant movements.

Digital Watercams

Digital Watercams offer live video feeds from water cameras, allowing you to check real-time conditions in your area. The data provided includes graphs of river levels, rainfall, tide times, and an archive of this data.

Local news and radio

Stay updated with news specific to your local area, as this information can provide useful resources such as contact numbers and the locations of evacuation centres.

Emergency App

The British Red Cross offers a free app that provides alerts and information from the Met Office and the Environment Agency. Users can add multiple locations and contacts to monitor, prepare emergency plans, and engage in informative quizzes.