

Flood Warnings

Be warned

New and improved flood warning codes come into force from November 2010. The new codes are simpler to understand, provide an earlier alert for the possibility of flooding, provide more local information and are clearer on the actions people need to take.

You may see or hear these on television weather broadcasts, local radio stations, online and through Floodline Warnings Direct. From November, we are also including 'real-time' information within our warning messages and on our website. This information will give you specific information for your area such as the times for when flooding is expected, tide heights, and what locations will be affected.




You can sign up for our FREE **Floodline Warnings Direct service**. This provides a flood warning direct to your telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message and fax.

To find out more or to sign up for free flood warnings please visit

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth

Floodline on 0845 988 1188

The new flood warning codes

 FLOOD ALERT	<p style="text-align: center;">Flooding is possible. Be prepared.</p>	<p>Issued 2 hours to 2 days in advance of flooding.</p>	<p>Action to take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be prepared for flooding. ▪ Prepare a flood kit.
 FLOOD WARNING	<p style="text-align: center;">Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.</p>	<p>Issued half an hour to 1 day in advance of flooding.</p>	<p>Action to take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Act now to protect your property. ▪ Block doors with flood boards or sandbags and cover airbricks and other ventilation holes. ▪ Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. ▪ Keep a flood kit ready.
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	<p style="text-align: center;">Severe flooding. Danger to life.</p>	<p>Issued when flooding poses a significant threat to life and different actions are required.</p>	<p>Action to take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. ▪ Co-operate with the emergency services and call 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Anyone in a flood risk area needs to be aware and keep an eye on the weather situation at all times. They can do this by checking the 3-day flood forecasts on our website.

Be prepared

It is important that you learn how to prepare for and be safe in a flood. It could save your life. It won't take long to complete and register a **Personal Flood Plan**. Download an easy template from www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth or phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

You can register now to take part in Exercise Watermark. This is a nationwide exercise happening in March 2011 to help local communities develop and test their own community flood plans. Register for free at www.exercisewatermark.co.uk.

You can also prepare for a flood by buying and installing flood products in advance. Visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth for advice on preparing your property for flooding, or www.bluepages.org.uk for an independent directory of flood products. Look for the Kitemark to check that a product meets minimum industry standards.

Over 5 million people in England and Wales live and work in properties that are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Are you one of them? Check your flood risk at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodsouth