

7 Alternative Flood Warning Triggers

The Environment Agency's 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 Gauge Map

Gauge Map is an interactive tool designed to help you monitor river levels and your own flood risk. It provides information from over 3,000 Environment Agency river and tidal monitoring stations across the UK.

Each monitoring station has its own Twitter account to help keep you informed, and tweets updates every 15 minutes at times of significant movement. Visit the Gauge Map website at: www.gaugemap.co.uk

#2 Met Office weather warnings

- **Yellow:** Be Aware that the situation may worsen, and prepare for possible disruption to plans.
- **Amber:** Be Prepared to take action and install temporary flood resistance measures.
- **Red:** Take Action as there is extreme weather expected that may cause risk to life.

#3 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.

#5 Emergency App

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

You can add multiple places and people of interest to monitor, and features include preparing emergency plans and taking informative quizzes.

#4 See it for yourself

Visible differences in watercourses such as rivers and streams. 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.

#6 Digital Watercams

Provide live video feeds from water cams so you can check the real-time conditions in your area at times of flooding, as well as an archive of information.

The data provided often includes river levels, amounts of rainfall and tide times, and some data is presented in graph form from recent times.

#7 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.