

YOUR NRA
REGIONAL CONTACT
POINT

Southern Region

In Southern Region the National Rivers Authority maintains 281km of sea defences and 2,746km of main river, serving a population of 3.9 million people.



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
Southern Region*

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- A Widespread flooding can affect people and property.
- B The Thames Barrier – NRA protection for the National capital.
- C The latest technology in rainfall detection – Weather Radar.
- D A man-made beach to protect the coastal environment.
- E A flood regulating barrier.
- F Part of a 24-hour communications and control centre.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



054506



NRA

National Rivers Authority

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

FACT SHEET 1

FLOOD WARNING SERVICE

THE NRA AND FLOOD DEFENCE

Under the 1989 Water Act the National Rivers Authority has a general supervisory role and other statutory duties for flood defence throughout England and Wales.

The Authority has set itself the following aims for flood defence:

- to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea, and
- to provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

To achieve these aims the Authority spends over £150m each year and employs over 3,000 staff on flood defence work in its 10 Regions. The work carried out includes:

- providing and operating a flood warning service.
- maintaining main river channels and flood defence structures to reduce flooding from rivers and the sea.
- constructing new flood defences where required.

THE NRA FLOOD WARNING SERVICE

The NRA Flood Warning Service, operating through its 10 Regions comprises:

- Monitoring weather forecasts, weather radar, rainfall, river and tidal levels on a continuous 24hr basis, to further detect and forecast possible flooding incidents.
- Issuing NRA flood warning notices to the Police who are then responsible for informing Local Authorities, other emergency services and the general public.

The NRA Flood Warning Service has 3 warning phases (Yellow, Amber and Red) each of which is associated with increasing flood risk. They are described below.

YELLOW PHASE – *Flooding is possible*

River catchments are in a state susceptible to flooding due to continuing or imminent rainfall and above normal river levels.

In the tidal situation wind blown spray is likely to overtop sea walls and beaches.

Minor flooding of roads and agricultural land in low lying areas is forecast but flooding of property is not expected.

The NRA warning will specify which rivers and coastal areas are likely to be affected.

AMBER PHASE – *Flooding is likely*

Rivers are likely to overtop banks and waves are likely to overtop sea walls and beaches.

Flooding of a number of roads, considerable areas of agricultural land and some high risk properties is forecast.

The NRA warning will specify which rivers and coastal areas are likely to be affected.

RED PHASE – *Serious flooding is likely*

Overtopping of river banks and possible breaching of flood defences is possible. Flooding of a significant number of properties, roads and large areas of agricultural land is forecast.

NRA warnings will specify which areas are likely to be affected and there may be recommendations to the Police to issue flood warnings to the general public.

Throughout England and Wales the NRA aims to issue a Red warning to the Police before flooding is likely to occur.

The NRA warning to the Police may specify the impact of the flooding as follows:

RISK	MINOR IMPACT	MAJOR IMPACT
Public safety	Low	High
Flooding of property above floor level	Few	Many
Infra-structure disruption	Limited	Extensive
Agricultural damage	High	Extremely high

