

2007 summer floods - Environment Agency - A table of the accuracy of our flood warnings

We provide a flood warning service to properties that are at risk of flooding from rivers, estuaries, or the sea.

The flood warning system consists of the following codes, with the following meanings:

Flood Watch - Flooding of low lying land and roads is expected. Be aware, be prepared, watch out!

Flood Warning - Flooding of homes and businesses is expected. Act now!

Severe Flood Warning - Severe flooding is expected. There is extreme danger to life and property. Act now!

All Clear - Flood Watches or Warnings are no longer in force for this area.

This table includes information about Flood Warnings and Severe Flood Warnings only.

We aim to provide a two hour warning of the onset of river flooding. We make an assessment of the lowest river level at which we believe significant property flooding will start, this is called the flood warning threshold. We issue warnings by anticipating when the river will reach this level. Every flood warning we issue is reviewed to make sure it was issued correctly and to identify where the service can be improved.

We have carried out an initial assessment of over 400 flood warnings that we issued to the communities most vulnerable to flooding and the results of these can be found below.

The number of flood warnings assessed where the river level was higher than the flood warning threshold.	334
The number of flood warnings assessed where the river level did not reach the flood warning threshold	82

The table below shows the time between the issue of the warnings and the time that the river level reached the flood warning threshold, where the flooding of property from the river occurred.

The timeliness of our Flood Warnings by number - the length of time from when we issued the flood warning to when the flood warning threshold was reached.	The number of warnings
The number of warnings issued after the threshold was reached	25
The number of warnings issued up to 1 hour before threshold was reached	19
The number of warnings issued between 1 and 2 hours before threshold was reached	22
The Number of warnings issued more than 2 hours before threshold was reached	350

The timeliness of our Flood Warnings expressed as a percentage - the length of time from when we issued the flood warning to when the flood warning threshold was reached	The percentage of warnings
The percentage of warnings issued after the threshold was reached	6%
The percentage of warnings issued before the threshold was reached	93%
The percentage of warnings issued at least 1 hour before the threshold was reached	87%
The percentage of warnings issued more than 2 hours before the threshold was reached	80%

We have taken reasonable care to make sure that the information provided here is an accurate copy of the information from our records. we will update this information and we will put it on these internet pages as soon as we can.