



Preparing for a storm – testing your emergency plan

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Why do we need emergency plans?



- Identifying risk and hazards
- Identifying triggers and actions
- Assigning responsibility
- Reduce the risk to others





Hazard vs Risk



Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability





Hazard vs Risk



Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability



Hazard vs Risk



Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability



Hazard vs Risk



Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability





Storm Ella

Testing your emergency plan





Vulnerable People

- Elderly
- Long-term sick and disabled
- Financially deprived
- Single parents and children
- Language and ethnicity
- Transient and recent immigrants
- Tourists
- Homeless
- Students

What
makes each
group more
or uniquely
at risk?





Types of Triggers

- UK Government Alert
- Met Office Severe Weather Warning
- EA Flood Alert and Flood Warning
- Media (TV, Radio, socials)
- Impacts observed on site / nearby indicator locations
- Site specific triggers
- Reports from
 - Emergency Services
 - Environment Agency
 - City Council (Highways Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Resilience Team)
 - Water and Sewerage Companies
 - Electricity/gas companies





Response Structure

Phase 1 **Be aware and prepare**

Phase 1 trigger activated: make preparations and be on standby for a possible impacts.

Phase 2 **Act, adapt and remain vigilant**

Phase 2 trigger activated: take steps to ensure your safety and the safety of those you are responsible for.

Phase 3 **Survive and contain/evacuate**

Phase 3 trigger activated: take actions to survive.



Storm Ella

Testing your emergency plan





20th February 2025

2 days before storm





Storm Ella



Amber Warning for wind



Yellow warning for rain



100-150mm forecast for higher ground



40-70mm forecast for lower ground, 30mm of this could fall in 2hrs



Coinciding with high spring tides



Wet winter



Phase 1 - Preparation

- What is the first thing you are going to do?
 - What are your risks?
 - Who is going to lead your response?
 - What do you need to put in place now?
 - How are you going to communicate the risk and to whom?
-
- What triggers will you be monitoring before you start to fully implement your plan?





Break



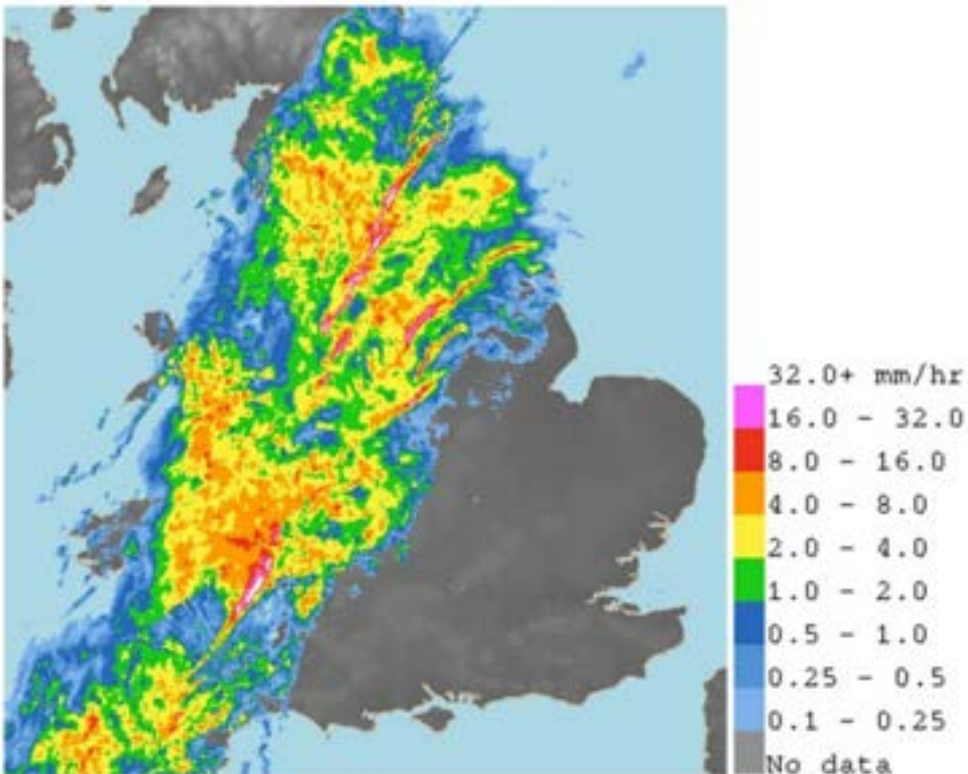


22nd February 2025
2pm





On the ground conditions



Met Office

Wind Gusts (mph)	
Bristol Channel	85
Newquay	82
Portland	82
Chivenor	77
Alderney	72
Yeovilton	57

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-60428046>

On the coast

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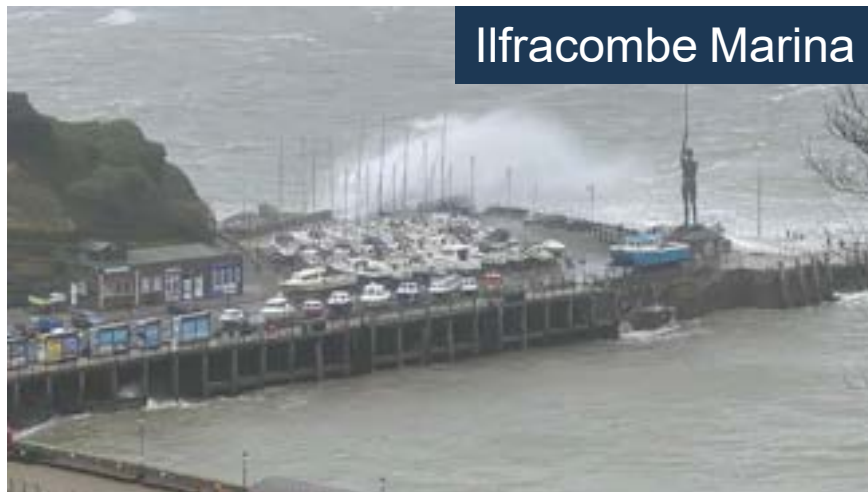
Sidmouth

Kyle Baker, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-60428046>



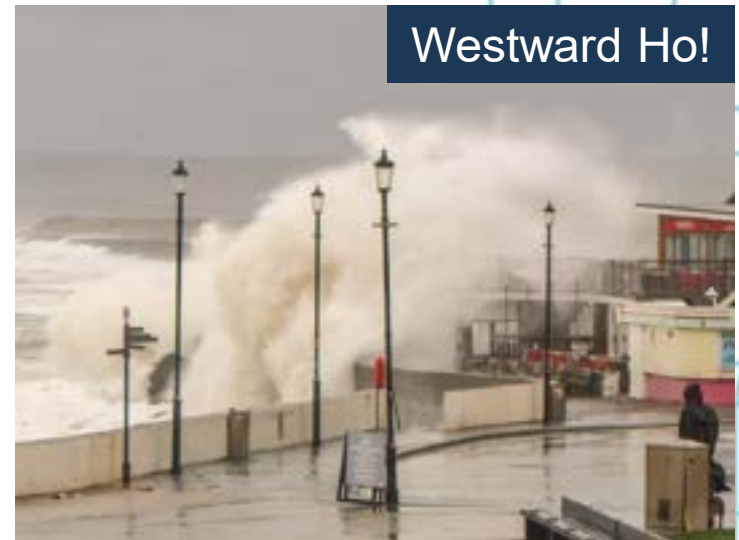
Dawlish

Thomas Johnson, New Civil Engineer,
<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/82m-dawlish-sea-wall-passes-toughest-test-yet-against-storms-babet-and-ciaran-04-12-2023/>



Ilfracombe Marina

BBC Weather Watchers, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c9wlr90i91vt>



Westward Ho!

Steve Matthews, North Devon Gazette,
<https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/gallery/home/1471299/strong-winds-and-high-tides-bring-havoc-to-north-devon.html>

The rivers



Axminster

Graham Hunt/BNPS, Devon Live, <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/live-updates-storm-eowyn-batters-9889569>



Tipton St John

Alex Wren, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-65588230>



Exebridge

Clair Weaver, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-64251088>



Combe Martin

Darren Bolton, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-42765727>

Surface water

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Combe Martin

Darren Bolton, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-42765727>



Barnstaple

Jack Delve, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-53812367>



Bovey Tracey

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-64275745>



Exeter

Alex Bangay, Devon Live, <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/flash-flooding-exeter-thunderstorms-soak-4432513>



Wind



Challaborough Bay



Mike Wynne-Powell, BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-68687803>

Exmouth



DevonAir Radio, Exmouth Journal
<https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/24781371.devon-storm-darragh-blows-away-exmouth-town-centre-roof/>

Copplestone



Andrew McGarva, BBC, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2nz34rdgno>

Staverton



BBC News, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce8ny9w9gw8o>

Phase 2

- What are you going to do now?
 - Who is going to lead your response?
 - How are you going to look after your own safety?
 - What actions are you and your community taking to support and track vulnerable residents?
 - Based on the impacts, have your risks changed?
 - Are there any low-cost actions/quick wins?
 - Is there any future planning you can do?
-
- Are your triggers specific enough to take action?





22nd February 2025
3.30pm



Emergency Services have declared a major incident

**Unless life or death situation they will not be
able to respond to requests**



Power outage

Including mobile phone providers



Phase 3

- What are your risks?
 - What are you going to do now?
 - How do you ensure your own safety?
 - How are you going to communicate?
 - What response are you no longer going to be able to provide?
-
- What can you do now to think about how you would support the community whilst they recover?





Debrief

- What worked well in your plan?
- What didn't work well in your plan?
- What are the opportunities to improve your plan?

Roles and Responsibilities

Resources

Communication

Planning

Welfare/Health & Safety

Response

