

## USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

- The timing and geographical location of a weather event, as well as recent weather conditions, can impact significantly on the individual and on society
- Heavy rain can turn to snow when temperatures are close to zero
- Winds can exceed general warning thresholds in exposed areas such as coasts and high ground and also in some low lying areas due to funnelling effects
- High waves can occur on lakes as well as along coasts
- Ice is not always visible on roads and surfaces
- Fog/ice can persist all day
- Hail showers can result in potentially lethal road conditions as the hail gets quickly compacted by traffic
- Heavy downpours can lead to flash flooding and poor visibility
- Thunderstorms: Be aware of the dangers of lightning and DO NOT take shelter under an umbrella or a tree. It is dangerous to be out over open water. Be careful of landline phones or any metal that connects with the ground. Lightning can strike the same spot twice

Keep yourself informed about the meteorological conditions from Met Éireann with detailed 7-day forecasts available for over 3,000 locations on [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie) and mobile App.

Please subscribe to push notifications of Warnings on the Met Éireann App.

## GENTLE REMINDER: CHECK ON YOUR OLDER RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



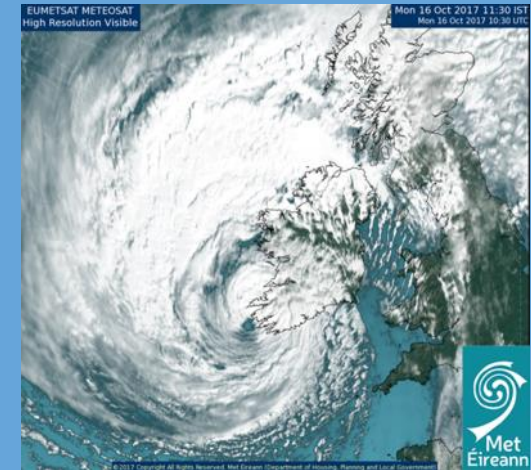
If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

- Do you have their phone number(s)?
- Phone them or call around
- Make sure they have enough fuel, food supplies and necessary medications
- If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check

### You can get more information from:

- [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie) (weather)
- [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie) (water safety)
- [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) (health)
- [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) (road safety)
- [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie) (transport systems)
- [www.flooding.ie](http://www.flooding.ie) (OPW)
- [www.emergencyplanning.ie](http://www.emergencyplanning.ie)

# BE WINTER-READY



## Met Éireann's Weather Warnings



LoCall OEP: 1890 252 736 or 0761 001 608  
e-mail: [oepe@defence.ie](mailto:oepe@defence.ie)



[www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)  
[@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## WEATHER WARNINGS

Met Éireann is the National Meteorological Service of Ireland and one of its most important roles is to issue weather forecasts and warnings for Ireland. This Public Weather Service mandate is primarily to protect life and ensure citizen safety. The service also supports the activities of the citizen and other agencies to mitigate damage to property and reduce disturbance to economic activity.

Met Éireann's main suite of warnings are issued between 10am and midday and these are updated as new information becomes available. In general, warnings will not be issued more than 48-hours ahead of the expected adverse weather but advisories on potential hazards can be issued up to a week in advance.

Local authorities are the lead agencies for co-ordinating the response to severe weather emergencies. Where weather emergencies are judged to impact public safety at national level a National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) is activated by the Office of Emergency Planning on request from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government which is the Lead Government Department for weather emergencies.

Met Éireann provides the weather briefings at the NECG, which brings together all Government Departments and relevant agencies and organisations, to support the locally led response and ensure coordination across the "Whole-of-Government" for the duration of the emergency.

## COLOUR CODING EXPLAINED



**STATUS YELLOW:** Weather that does NOT pose a threat to the general population but is potentially dangerous on a localised scale.

**Be aware** about meteorological conditions and check if you are exposed to danger by nature of your activity or your specific location. Do not take any avoidable risks.



**STATUS ORANGE:** Infrequent and dangerous weather conditions which may pose a threat to life and property.

**Prepare** yourself in an appropriate way depending on location and activity. All people and property in the affected areas can be significantly impacted.

**Check** your activity/event and delay or cancel as appropriate.



**STATUS RED:** Rare and very dangerous weather conditions from intense meteorological phenomena.

**Take action** to protect yourself and your property. Follow instructions and advice given by the authorities under ALL circumstances and be prepared for exceptional measures.

This colour coding is used throughout Europe via the Metealarm system [www.meteoalarm.com](http://www.meteoalarm.com)

## STORM NAMING

Naming storms by National Met Services has been shown to raise awareness of severe weather. It provides a clear, authoritative and consistent message to the public and prompts people to take action to prevent harm to themselves or to their property.

Met Éireann, the UK Met Office and KMNI (Netherlands) collaborate in forecasting and naming storms. The names are chosen from public suggestions and are in alphabetical order, alternating between gender.

- A storm is named by a National Met Service when Orange Level wind warnings are forecast to impact over a wide area overland
- Orange or Red level gusts can occur in exposed areas without the event being named

Once a storm is named by a National Met Service the name is retained. For example: Ophelia was named by the National Hurricane Center (USA) and Emma by IPMA (Portugal).

### Marine Warnings

**Small Craft Warning:** Beaufort Force 6 or 7 forecast out to 10 nautical miles offshore around Irish Coasts.

**Gale Warning:** Gale Force 8 or higher forecast out to 30 nautical miles offshore (Irish Coastal Waters) and the Irish Sea.

**Yellow** Gale Force 8/Strong Gale Force 9

**Orange** Storm Force 10

**Red** Violent Storm Force 11/Hurricane Force 12