

# Flood risk: Drier conditions expected but river levels stay high



Environment Agency teams operating high volume pumps on Currymoor in the south west over the past few days to help reduce water levels.

While the weather outlook is looking drier over the next few days, the Environment Agency is urging people to [check their flood risk](#), [sign up for flood warnings](#) and to stay safe as [ground water](#) and river levels remain high following the recent heavy rain.

Craig Woolhouse, Flood Duty Manager at the Environment Agency, said:

We are expecting conditions to be drier across England today and throughout the week, meaning that the risk of flooding is continuing to subside. There is potential for some rain on Thursday but the overall flood risk remains low.

Groundwater levels remain high in parts of Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and West Sussex. Local communities in these areas are asked to remain vigilant to the risks of flooding.

While river levels are falling, they remain high – we will continue to monitor river levels closely and to operate our flood defences to help keep communities safe.

We advise people to sign up for flood warnings, stay away from swollen rivers and not drive through flood water – just 30cm of flowing water is enough to float your car.

Steve Ramsdale, Met Office Chief Forecaster, said:

On New Year's Eve, some light rain will affect parts of the South West. New Year's Day will be largely dry but a front will bring some light rain into north-west Scotland, followed by a band of rain, some heavy, moving south-east across the UK during Thursday

and Friday.

You can check your flood risk, sign up for free flood warnings and keep up to date with the latest situation at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>, call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or follow [@EnvAgency](https://twitter.com/EnvAgency) on Twitter for the latest flood updates.

ENDS

For enquiries please contact [newsdesk@defra.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@defra.gov.uk)

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Last updated 31 December 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 31 December 2019 The name Andy Page has been changed to Steve Ramsdale. In the caption the word "high" has been included to better describe high volume pumps.
2. 30 December 2019 We have updated this page to reflect the current flood risk.
3. 27 December 2019 Updated to reflect improving weather outlook
4. 24 December 2019 Updated to reflect latest situation on 24 December
5. 23 December 2019 Updated to reflect latest situation on 23 December
6. 22 December 2019 update on numbers of properties flooded and also protected
7. 22 December 2019 Updated weekend flood risk
8. 21 December 2019 Update of weekend flood risk
9. 20 December 2019 We have updated this press release to reflect the current outlook and operational activity
10. 19 December 2019 First published.