

Weather Warnings

For the past few months Ireland has experienced particularly wet and stormy weather. There have been frequent weather alerts and warnings from Met Éireann, the Irish Meteorological Service, to make everyone aware of possible dangers from wind and rain. You may have seen or heard some of these warnings on television or radio or on Met Éireann's website (www.met.ie). These alerts and warnings are usually given a colour - yellow, orange or red. But what do these colours mean?

There are three categories of Weather Warnings:

A. Status Yellow - Weather Alert - Be Aware

B. Status Orange - Weather Warning - Be Prepared

C. Status Red - Severe Weather Warning - Take Action



There is a set list of measurements that forecasters use to determine whether an alert or warning is necessary. For example, coastal winds with a mean speed of Storm Force 10 would trigger a *Status Orange Weather Warning*, while mean wind speeds in excess of 80 km/h and gusts speeds in excess of 130 km/h would trigger a *Status Red Severe Weather Warning*. Sometimes it is necessary to issue a warning or alert even though set measurements are not reached. For example a combination of weather events, which individually might not be too severe, might be a cause for concern if they come together. While forecasters rely on past data and computer programs to make decisions, they must use their own judgement too.



No Severe Weather



Be Aware



Be Prepared



Take Action

MeteoAlarm

All countries around Europe have a National Meteorological Service that issue weather forecasts and weather alerts and warnings within their own country. These national services, including Met Éireann, have come together to create this very clear colour-coded weather warning system that is standard in every European country. It means that if you are travelling within Europe you can check for any severe weather and even if you do not fully understand the language, the colour of the alert will make you more aware of its severity and how to react. For alerts in all European countries visit www.meteoalarm.eu.

Weather events that might trigger alerts & warnings:

Warnings and alerts are not just issued for wind and rain. They are also issued for ice, snow and fog and many other weather-related events.

Each type of warning is accompanied by a standardised symbol (see right), which helps to overcome language barriers within European countries.

Ireland also issues alerts (yellow only) for other weather-related phenomena. These are:

1. Potato Blight (May to Sept only)
2. UV/Sunburn (May to Sept only)
3. Pollen Levels (May to July only)



	Wind
	Snow/Ice
	Thunderstorm
	Ice
	Extreme high temperature
	Extreme low temperature
	Coastal Event
	Forestfire
	Avalanche
	Rain
	Flood
	Rain-Flood