

Are your business and lone workers weather ready?

TRACKPLOT HAS INTRODUCED TWO NEW ADDITIONS TO ITS LONE WORKER MONITORING SYSTEM. HERE, EMMA THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF TRACKPLOT LTD, EXPLAINS MORE.



Trackplot specialises in keeping outdoor lone workers safe, and appreciates the harsh environmental conditions they can be exposed to, particularly during the winter months. Integrated into Trackplot's lone worker monitoring system is a unique suite of real-time weather and environmental data, warnings and alerts so customers can anticipate risks and prevent problems. Launched at the end of 2024 were two new additions to the service: UK-wide Personal Severe Weather Notifications and Flood Warnings and Alerts (England).

Emma Thomas, Director of Trackplot Ltd, advises, "These services have been developed especially for outdoor workers, those who travel regularly for work, offsite workers or those in remote regions."

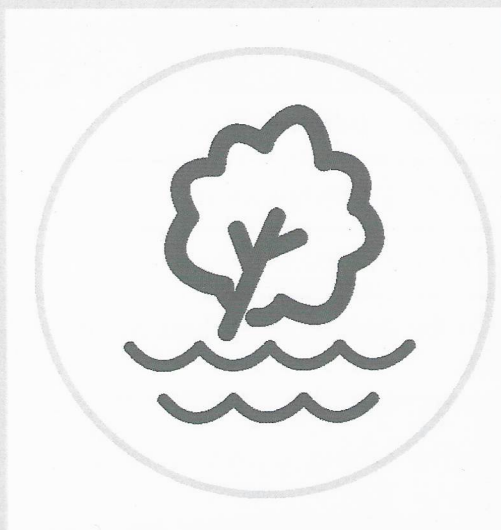
The main driver behind these new developments is the impact of climate change on the UK weather.

"The Met Office confirmed 2024 was the fourth warmest year on record for the UK: January - September 2024 was 1.54°C above pre-industrial levels. Rain and storms in particular were a challenge across the UK. It was the wettest September on record with some counties in England receiving more than 300% the average rainfall.

Predictions for 2070 compared to 1990 advise that winters will be between 1 and 4.5°C warmer, up to 30% wetter and the intensity of rain will increase by up to 25%. Days when rainfall exceeds 30mm per hour will happen twice as often.



Trackplot's Personal Severe Weather Notifications alert lone workers and their managers when they are potentially at risk.



Trackplot's Flood Warnings and Alerts (England) allow local and national flood level assessment.

Research published in October 2024 by the Met Office advised, '43% of people have been caught out unexpectedly by severe weather over the past year.' And the report confirmed the biggest cause of disruption was heavy rain stopping people getting to work on time or going out.

The second factor which influenced the expansion of Trackplot's environmental service is HSE's work-related accidents and fatality statistics. The human impact of poor health and safety is clear: the latest figures from 2023/24 state 138 workers were killed in work-related accidents, 87 members of the public were killed in work-related accidents and 604,000 workers sustained a non-fatal injury. An average of 8 days was taken off work due to a workplace injury. The annual cost of workplace injury alone was £7.1 billion with 4.1 million working days lost. An estimated 15,300 workers withdraw permanently from the labour market annually as a result of a workplace injury or work-related ill health and these are an important sub-set since they incur large costs.

Trackplot anticipates the increasing intensity

of weather as climate change worsens will increase risks for outdoor workers and will impact negatively on the UK's health & safety statistics. Trackplot's focus on outdoor-specific health and safety tools, enabling customers to prepare and be weather ready, will allow managers to make timely and appropriate decisions to prevent incidents.

What are Personal Severe Weather Notifications?

These individual notifications are issued to a lone worker if they are in a severe weather region or within 10km of a flood area. Utilising UK-wide Met Office Weather Warning data and Flooding (England) data these notifications enable the lone worker to reassess their schedule and decide on a contingency or, if necessary, to abort their mission. The notification is also sent to the worker's managers so they are aware when they are potentially at risk.

Trackplot's Met Office Weather Warning data includes eight different weather types including rain, thunderstorms, wind, snow, lightning, ice, extreme heat and fog.

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Trackplot in collaboration with:



Colour	Warning/Alert name	Meaning
Red	Severe flood warning	Severe flooding, danger to life.
Amber	Flood warning	Flooding is expected, immediate action required.
Yellow	Flood alert	Flooding is possible, be prepared.
Green	Warning no longer in force	No longer in force. Be aware of residual water and hidden debris.

Flood Warnings and Alerts

The merging of the Environment Agency’s Flood Warnings and Alerts into the Trackplot Portal allows users to check current floods and threats across England. The data includes 4 levels of flood emergency, as shown in the table above.

Emma Thomas continues, “Severe weather typically disrupts travel, transport and itineraries; can prevent access to sites; causes power cuts and damage to property and infrastructure. We expect Trackplot’s new tools will help workers and businesses to prepare in

advance of weather hitting to prevent situations escalating.

Protect your workers and your business

Use Trackplot’s compilation of weather and environmental services to:

- Crisis manage an incident if a worker is caught in serious weather.
- Arrange work according to your location and the local conditions.
- Postpone schedules which may put lives or property at risk.

New development for Elmia Wood

Elmia Wood, one of Elmia’s most international and long-lived fairs, is taking the next step in developing the fair concept. As part of this initiative, Elmia is pausing the nationally focused SkogsElmia and arranging Elmia Wood every two years instead of every four. This has been made possible through a new land agreement at Bratteborgs gård, that lasts until 2029, with option for extension until 2037.

“We are proud of Elmia Wood as a forestry fair with its high quality and an international focus. It gathers the entire forestry industry in the forest, and we see great potential in letting the fair continue to grow and develop at Bratteborg,” says Johannes Hansson, fair manager for Elmia Wood.

First though, Elmia looks forward to welcoming exhibitors and visitors from different parts of the world to Elmia Wood during 5-7 June, 2025, at Bratteborgs gård outside Vaggeryd.

“We see increased interest from exhibitors for 2025, compared to the 2022 event. We therefore expect further growth for upcoming fairs.

“Planning for 2025 is in full swing. We continue to target visitors in the forestry sector, including professionals, small-scale operators, and family-run forestry businesses. They will undoubtedly have an impressive fair experience in the forest,” adds Johannes Hansson.

There will be an improved fair loop, approx 3.5km long with a more compact exhibition area and shortcuts for an even better experience. In addition there will be an increased focus on machine demonstrations and innovations, and a brand-new arborist area.

Upcoming fair dates:
 June 5–7, 2025
 May 20–22, 2027
 June 7–9, 2029