

# French « Vigilancia » system

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## A few apologies

- As usual ... but for one
- Es una vergüenza no hablar Castellano con vosotros, amigos latinos ... puedo entender bastante bien, pero no puedo hablar mucho ... he aprendido leyendo libros sobre el camino a Santiago durante my viaje de boda ... but I am much more fluent in english !
- I must apologise about my name as well ; it is quite complicated to pronounce ... at least to french palates ...
- I also apologise about my accent which is quite a mix of french, german and ... australian !

## A bit of definitions ...

- Mainland France is divided into 96 « départements » which are approximately the size of an american county. They are 5,500 km<sup>2</sup> wide on average, that is 75 km x 75 km app.
- The gouvernement is represented in each of those départements by a « Préfet ». The Préfet is the head of all gouvernemental agencies in the Departement ... except for Meteo-France, which is not part of the french administration any more since 1994.
- The smallest administrative institution is the “commune”, or city
- « Vigilance » is a french word meaning both awareness and carefullness or caution; it could be translated by watchfulness, depending on the case ... also by vigilance ...

## Before the vigilance system ever existed ...

- Météo-France (or more exactly the French national Meteorological Service before 1994) was always involved in the warning of dangerous situations.
- The Service was in charge of warning the french authorities, which in turn were in charge of warning the general public and of organising the aid to victims.
- Then came the storms of the century ... Christmas 99.
- It was recognised that Météo-France did its job, but that it could be well improved by warning directly the mayors, the media and the general public at large.

# Météo-France

- Is the French National Meteorological Service
- Is a public administrative body, but independant from the french administration
- One of its missions is to meet the needs of civil defence and risk-prevention authorities
- The « Vigilance » systems (or EWS) was set up in 2001 (updated in 2004 and 2007) jointly by the MEEDDM and the Ministère de l'Intérieur.

## According to french law ...

- Legislation on natural risks was recently (2003-2004) updated.
- 2003 : developing risk awareness, reduce risk vulnerability
- 2004 : updating civil defence
- ORSEC plans
- DSC, DPPR, SCHAPI, MEEDDM, Ministère de l'Intérieur
- Préfet, Mayors, DOC, COZ, COGIC

# Organisation of emergency relief

- Mayors and Préfets are responsible for the safety of the population.
- ORSEC plans at the level of the Départements are designed to cope with disastrous events.
- ORSEC documents are based on DDRM (Dossiers Départementaux des Risques Majeurs)
- ORSEC zonal plans are designed for the case when more than one département is concerned
- Préfets activate (or they don't) ORSEC plans upon reception of Vigilance information

# Vigilance

- The hazards due to weather are assessed at the meteorological inter-regional level (up to 25 départements) in close coordination with the national Forecasting Center (CNP); the last word is given to the inter-regional level.
- As soon as the decision is made to issue a vigilance level, the information is given simultaneously to Préfets, COGIC, the general public through the media, as well as well specified clients such as railways, and electricity operators. NGO are also issued this information
- It must be noted that informal contacts are made through out the decision making



# Form of the vigilance

- A map of the départements is issued, each département colored according to the level of vigilance
- Colors :
  - Green : no specific watchfulness required
  - Yellow : danger usual in the département at this time of the year, dangerous locally at times
  - Orange : severe conditions anticipated
  - Red : extremely severe conditions anticipated
- Each color level is associated to “behaviour advices”
- As from Orange, follow-up reports (or status reports) are issued at least twice a day, but in fact every time there is an update to issue

# Vigilance map of mainland France

## Vigilance météorologique

La carte est actualisée au moins 2 fois par jour, à 6h et 16h.

- Une vigilance absolue s'impose** des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux d'intensité exceptionnelle sont prévus ...
- Soyez très vigilant**, des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux sont prévus ...
- Soyez attentif** si vous pratiquez des activités sensibles au risque météorologique ...
- Pas de vigilance particulière.**

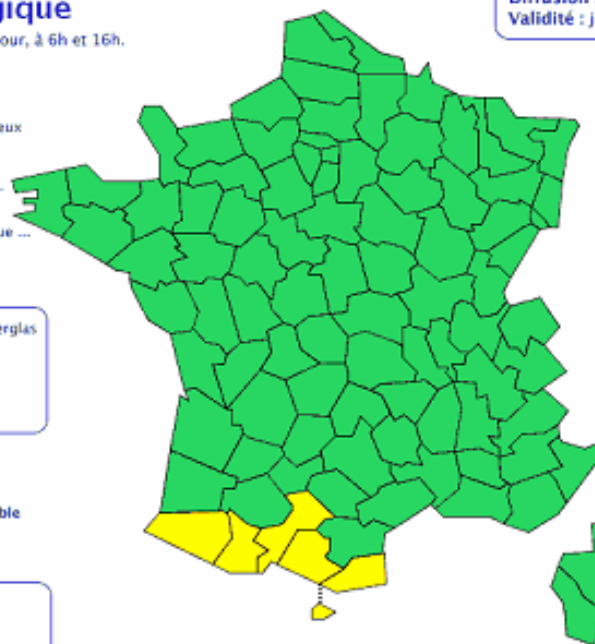


 La vigilance pluie-inondation est élaborée avec le réseau de prévision des crues du Ministère du Développement durable



[Risque Futé](#)  
[Vigilance en Europe](#)

Diffusion : le vendredi 17 septembre 2010 à 16h00  
Validité : jusqu'au samedi 18 septembre 2010 à 16h00



Cliquez sur la carte pour lire les bulletins régionaux

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- Hazards involved :

- Gale force winds – strong winds
- Rain – flooding (in cooperation with SCHAPI)
- Storms
- Snow and ice
- Heat wave
- Intense cold
- Marine conditions
- Avalanche

# Conclusions for mainland France

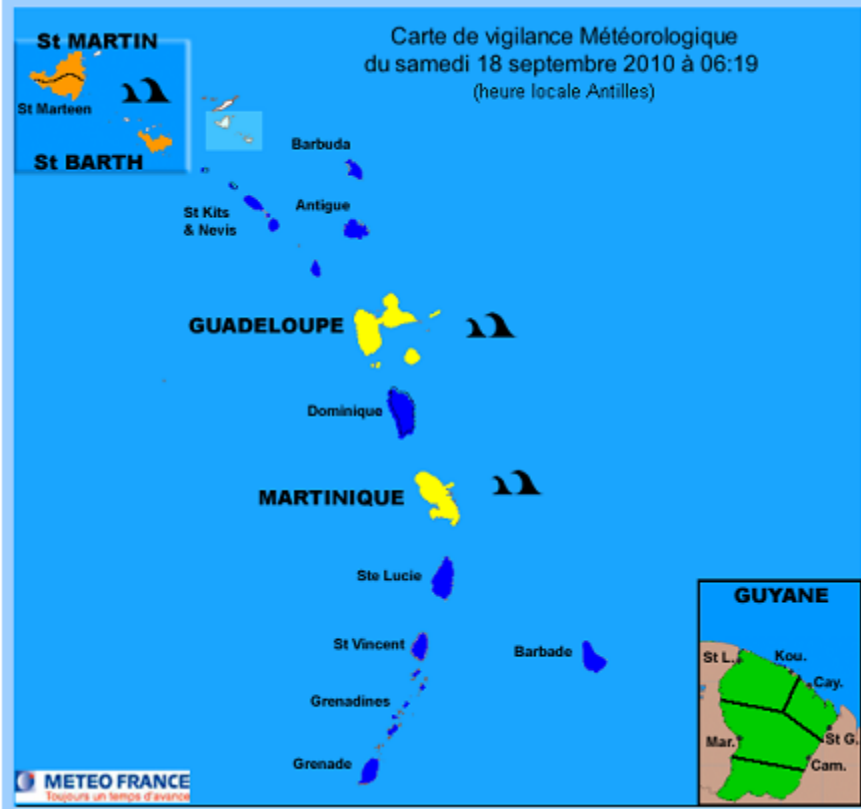
- As a conclusion
  - one has to work in very close coordination with the aid and rescue organisation
  - It is necessary to put a limit on the precision given by the map : the département for the case of France
  - It is very important to precise the role of everybody in the decision making about the color ... it brings consequences
  - each time a new sort of vigilance was issued (for instance heat waves) a study of the specific danger was conducted according to the region of issuance

## Continued ...

- for specific dangers, Météo-France acts in close coordination with other agencies : SCHAPI for flooding, as an example, or INVS for heat waves
- It helps a lot to set up a Quality Management System to fix things up !

## In the caribbean ...

- Two major dangers : cyclones and flooding (heavy rains), but others are also possible (sea condition, strong winds)
- Cyclones : a different set of colors is used (green, yellow, orange, red, purple and gray) with different meanings
- Over the yellow condition, the Préfet takes the responsibility to issue the colours : it is associated with compulsory safety measures that can put the economic activity to a stop.
- Meteo-France is always part of the crisis centers in order to assist the Préfet and to help him to make the right decisions
- Follow-up reports are issued twice a day at least



Carte de vigilance Météorologique  
du samedi 18 septembre 2010 à 06:19  
(heure locale Antilles)

**Type de Dangers**  
pouvant affecter la région Antilles-Guyane

Attention: le symbole "cyclone" n'indique pas la position de celui-ci, mais le type de danger associé à la couleur

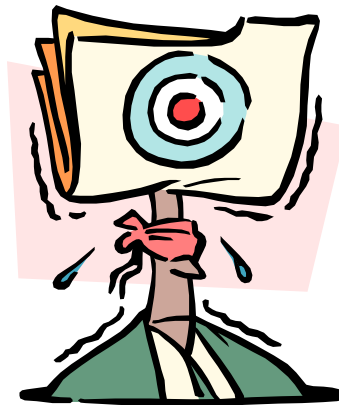
- ” Vent Violent
- Mer dangereuse
- ⚡ Fortes Précipitations
- 🌀 Cyclone

**NIVEAUX DE VIGILANCE**  
Cliquez sur le rectangle de couleur pour connaître les mesures à prendre

- ↪ PAS DE PREVISION
- ↪ PAS DE DANGER SIGNIFICATIF
- ↪ SOYEZ ATTENTIF  
danger imprécis, effet limités
- ↪ PREPAREZ-VOUS!  
Danger probable ou effets modérés
- ↪ PROTEGEZ VOUS!  
Danger très probable et effets importants
- ↪ CONFINEZ VOUS!  
Danger imminent et effets majeurs
- ↪ RESTEZ PRUDENT!  
Danger écarté ou atténué

# Conclusions of the conclusions

- This presentation is a crude approximation of reality : the details can be found in the paper from Catherine Boretti, or in papers written by Jean-Noël Degrace.
- Thank you very much to excuse this approximation of a much more complex situation and thanks to all for listening
- I am not ready for your questions ... but shoot anyway !







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