



Alert system procedure and population information means in the Liguria region: criticism in the communication chain

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In such rough environment as the Northern Mediterranean coastline, where basins response time is in the order of few hours and flash floods develop rapidly inundating suddenly the terminal flood plains, traditional warning systems based on rainfall observation and rainfall runoff modelling do not provide timely predictions in order to implement the required precautionary civil protection measures. Social safety demands that meteorologists and hydrologists reliably predict ground effects at least 24 hours in advance. The warning can be effective only if the population is effectively informed regarding the alert status and is already educated on how to behave during an alert situation.

In this work the hydrometeorological forecasting chain in use at the Ligurian CF is briefly described together with the procedure that leads to the alert issuing. Emphasis is put on information means to population: traditional alert systems (i.e., TV, radio) and web site channel. Moreover the change in population response and press response in the last 6 years are analysed.