

Situation overview

- On the evening of 4 January 2017, an ongoing storm in Northern Europe caused a sea level surge, and thus severe flooding, in the coastal regions of southern Denmark, as predicted by the Danish Meteorological Institute forecast system. The Institute measured sea levels up to 1.77 m above normal water levels, with the highest peak occurring in Bagenkop, Åbenrå, and in Sønderborg. The water levels reached heights that mark a 100 year occurrence.
- The high water levels were caused by a low pressure storm system over the Baltic Sea, with prevailing northern winds that pushed sea water having previously entered the Baltic Sea via the North Sea back in circular motion. This massive movement of sea water created a bottleneck between Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia, resulting in floods.
- Emergency preparations by national authorities were able to avert major damage, and no international assistance was requested.

Sources: DEMA, DMI



- Main cities
- Main Airports
- Most affected areas
- Denmark

Water level (cm)

- ≤ 160
- 161 - 170
- > 170