The Value of Real-time Information

Dataminr Pulse Helped Western European Businesses Mitigate Risk Throughout Massive Flooding

Extreme weather is a constant threat to modern enterprises, posing risks to employee safety, physical assets and business continuity. In dangerous conditions with unreliable communication flows, access to on-the-ground insight is often the difference between businesses that can endure the impacts of extreme weather and those whose response is ineffective.

In the summer of 2021, massive flooding disrupted regions across Western Europe. At Dataminr, we were able to alert customers—including Chief Security Officers at leading global organizations—via Dataminr Pulse, our real-time AI platform.

Dataminr Pulse detects the earliest signals of high-impact events and emerging risks from more than 250,000 public sources of information—including scanned text, images, video and audio—and processes millions of individual inputs in several regional languages.

Throughout the crisis, we alerted customers to the most up-to-date notices on evacuations, commercial infrastructure damage, supply chain interruptions and government responses—helping them to respond quickly and effectively.

Evacuations

The flooding posed life-threatening risks across Western Europe, with tens of thousands of people needing to be evacuated out of submerged or threatened areas.

Dataminr Pulse issued alerts on emergency orders and evacuations throughout the flood zone —providing customers with real-time situational awareness of imminent risks to their employees, executives, assets and other key infrastructure, including hospitals.

Dataminr Pulse's alerts also allowed customers to view risks by region—at the municipal and street level—and against the locations of their key personnel. The alerts also provided the context needed for customers to determine the best response for their organization, including how to notify employees of imminent dangers, reroute executives, change travel itineraries and modify operations based on evolving circumstances.

Hagen, Germany

ALERT

Emergency services unable to cross floodwaters during flash flooding on Zur Hünenpforte in Hagen, Germany: Witness Video.

**03:44:39
2021-07-14**

ALERT

Heavy flooding prompts closure of Unternahmerstrasse and Wehringhauser Strasse in Hagen, Germany: Polizei NRW HA, Official Post Photo.

**07:33:42
2021-07-14**

ALERT

Vehicles submerged amid heavy flooding in Hagen, Germany: Witness Photo.

**08:11:59
2021-07-14**

ALERT

Police ask people not to travel to Hagen, Germany due to flooding and forecast of further rain: Polizei NRW HA, Official Post.

**11:51:04
2021-07-14**

ALERT

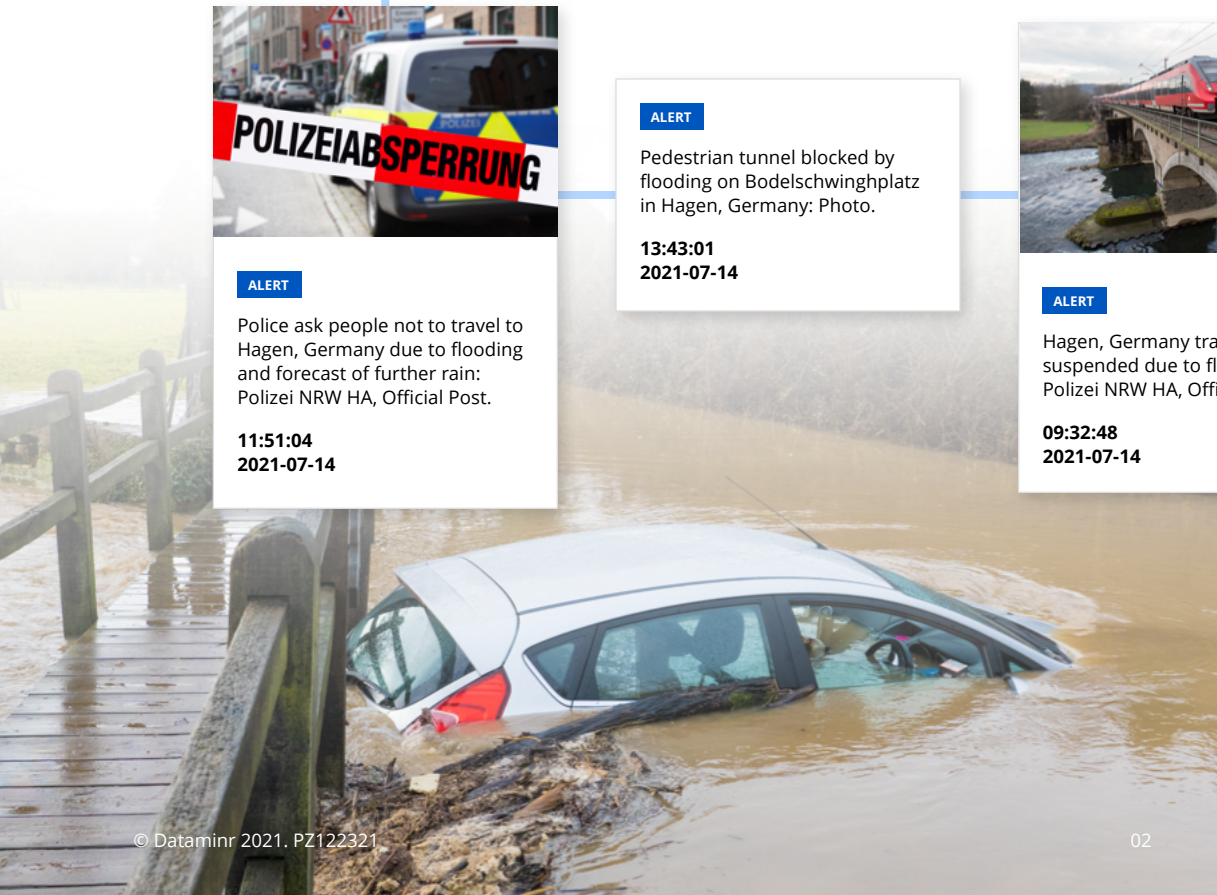Pedestrian tunnel blocked by flooding on Bodelschwinghplatz in Hagen, Germany: Photo.

**13:43:01
2021-07-14**

ALERT

Hagen, Germany train services suspended due to flooding: Polizei NRW HA, Official Post.

**09:32:48
2021-07-14**

Commercial Infrastructure Damage

Commercial infrastructure across Western Europe suffered extensive damage—both from surging waters and looting. Retail stores, manufacturing sites, recreational facilities, convention centers, mines and many other types of commercial infrastructure were rendered out of commission, with recovery efforts projected to take weeks, if not months.

Dataminr Pulse customers were able to address the most pressing and relevant risks to their physical assets thanks to dozens of real-time alerts on threats to commercial assets throughout Western Europe—ahead of media reports or government advisories.

Supply Chain Interruptions

The financial impact of the flooding easily exceeded $10B USD, according to Aon , with a substantial amount stemming from lost productivity caused by damage to key supply chain infrastructure.

Dataminr Pulse sent hundreds of alerts from unique locations throughout the flooding that identified hazards to critical regional transportation infrastructure, including highways, city roads, railways, bridges, dams, riverbanks, ports and air ports. From this wealth of information, supply chain resiliency and disaster recovery teams leveraged granular topic and area lists to visualize risks to the infrastructure their supply chains depended on before it was too late.

These alerts enabled businesses to reroute drivers and pull them off of dangerous roads, hold cargo at warehouses and prepare for third-party vendor inventory interruptions.

Verviers, Belgium

ALERT

Vehicles and structures submerged during flooding in Verviers, Belgium: Witness Video.

08:29:15
2021-07-15

ALERT

Cars float down roads in flood waters in Verviers, Belgium: Witness Video.

08:33:59
2021-07-15

ALERT

Curfew imposed from 21:00 to 06:00 today in Verviers, Belgium to prevent looting amid floods: Local News Outlet.

17:45:56
2021-07-15

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Government Response

The rapid onset and scale of the flooding required widespread government intervention to deliver humanitarian relief.

From the earliest moments of crisis to the floodwater recession, Dataminr Pulse connected security professionals to key developments in government responses to the disaster. With this information, they were able to brief executives and coordinate response efforts for their impacted personnel and physical assets.

Liege, Belgium

ALERT

Flooding impacts rail traffic including lines L37 in Liege and L166 in Namur, Belgium: Local News Outlet Photo.

07:02:39
2021-07-14

ALERT

Monsin Island dam to possibly overflow on July 15 due to heavy rains in Liege, Belgium: Local News Outlet.

08:07:29
2021-07-15

ALERT

All train services interrupted on Charleroi-Namur-Liege line in Belgium due to track damage caused by heavy rainfall and flooding: Official Post Photo.

09:08:14
2021-07-15

ALERT

Liege, Belgium Mayor Defraigne calls on residents living on banks of River Meuse to evacuate area: JP Jacqmin, Reporter.

14:14:15
2021-07-15

ALERT

Heavy flooding at Tunnel de Cointe in Liege, Belgium: Local Source Photo.

13:58:13
2021-07-15

ALERT

Gas and electricity supply disrupted due to heavy flooding in Liege, Belgium: Local News Outlet Photo.

09:32:48
2021-07-14

ALERT

Police call on residents to evacuate from ground floors of buildings due to flooding risk in Liege, Belgium: Reporter.

09:32:48
2021-07-14

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