



# Article Identifying Storm Hotspots and the Most Unsettled Areas in Barcelona by Analysing Significant Rainfall Episodes from 2013 to 2018

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Abstract: Urban floods repeatedly threaten Barcelona, damaging the city infrastructure and endangering the safety of the population. The urban planning of the city, the socioeconomic distribution, its topography, and the characteristics of precipitation systems translate into these flood events having a heterogeneous effect across the city. It means that the coping capacity has a strong dependence on local factors that must be considered when management plans are developed by the municipality. This work aims to contribute to the better knowledge of precipitation structures associated with heavy rainfall events and floods in Barcelona based on radar data and an urban rain gauge network. Radar data have been provided by the Meteorological Service of Catalonia (SMC), while precipitation data, impact data, and early warnings, have been provided by Barcelona Cicle de l'Aigua S.A. (BCASA), for the period 2013–2018. A new radar-based methodology has been developed to identify convective rainfall structures from radar reflectivity volumes (CAPPI and TOP products) to make the analysis easier. The high computing speed of the procedure allows efficient analysis of a large set of convective cells without scarifying temporal resolution of radar data. Both rainfall fields (radar and rain gauge, respectively) have been compared. Then through the identified rainfall convective structures, thunderstorm hotspots have been identified. Considering an alert indicator from BCASA and the reported incidents, episodes with the highest impact have been analysed in depth. Results show 207 significant rainfall episodes in the ROI for the six years, which are mainly concentrated between September and November. The fact that significant episodes are usually produced by highly convective rain corroborates the advantage of using radar images as a tool to detect any maxima even when no rain gauge is there. In 64 of the episodes, the level of pre-alert was achieved with a maximum frequency between August and September. The proposed algorithm shows more than 8000 centroids of convective cells from 189 cases. Whilst maximum surface reflectivity over 45 dBZ is more prone to occur near the coastline, the centroids of storm cells tend to concentrate more inland. The final objective is to improve the actions taken by the organisation responsible for managing urban floods, which have seen Barcelona recognised as a model city for flood resilience by the United Nations.

**Keywords:** flash floods; urban floods; storms; hazard management; urban hydrology; convection; convective cells; thunderstorms; radar; flood prevention; Mediterranean

# 1. Introduction

Hydrometeorological hazards especially affect the Mediterranean basin, where heavy rainfalls play an important role and usually produce flash floods, surface floods and urban floods. Most of the floods are concentrated inside a geographical belt that runs from the western Mediterranean to the Black Sea [1]. In Catalonia (NE of the Iberian Peninsula, and NW of the Mediterranean Basin), floods are the most damaging natural hazard [2],



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**Copyright:** © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). with a mean rate of over eight flood episodes per year [3]. During the 1981–2015 period, more than 250 cases were identified, most of them near the coastline [3–5]. As a result, the Spanish Insurance Compensation Consortium (in Spanish, Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros—CCS) paid out over 450 million euros between 1996 and 2015. Furthermore, other private insurance expenses must be added. Highly convective and very localised precipitation is responsible for 70% of the flood episodes along the Catalan coast [6,7], affecting the most densely populated Catalan counties in one out of three cases.

According to the flood classification in Barrera et al. [8], Llasat et al. [9] showed that 36% of the floods (including flash floods, riverine floods, surface water floods, and urban floods) recorded in Catalonia between 1982 and 2010 were ordinary (no damages or minor ones), 53% were extraordinary (moderate damages) and 11% were catastrophic (major damages). There is no significant trend related to catastrophic floods in Catalonia, but the number of extraordinary floods has increased in recent years [3,8–10]. Explaining this trend requires considering not only hydrometeorological hazards but also vulnerability, exposure and coping capacity [11–14]. Still, recent studies point towards an increase in flood risk but more to an increase in the associated socioeconomic impact [15]. Strong social commitment and sustainable efforts are needed to increase flood prevention and resilience [16]. This can only be achieved through better empowerment and co-responsibility at every level, based on improved knowledge of prevention and forecasting [17].

A study on regions in the United States by Naylor and Sexton [18] concluded that the urbanisation of metropolitan areas may have changed the location of convective storm cells and precipitation fields. In the Mediterranean region, there is a significant interaction between urbanisation and convective precipitation, as most floods are caused by very heavy and local precipitation in urbanised areas [7]. The topographic characteristics of the Mediterranean region, in combination with its geographical location and the presence of a warm sea, mean that hazardous convective systems can develop, or unsettled Atlantic perturbations can be strengthened [19]. Rigo and Llasat [20] determined that Mesoscale Convective Systems (MCS) and large multicellular systems are the most common structures responsible for the most significant rainfall episodes in Catalonia. On the contrary, isolated convection or small multicellular systems can produce heavy, localised rainfall that can potentially cause flash floods (in short and torrential streams) and urban floods [7]. To be managed as well as possible, good meteorological forecasts and primary warning systems are required. Numerical weather predictions are usually not accurate enough for such small scales with complex orography, and advanced monitoring systems have limitations as well. New and more advanced decision support systems are needed to provide valuable information in critical situations [1].

In this context, radar data offer good complementary information and can work as an observational system and also as an assimilating source for meteorological mesoscale models [21,22]. Radar networks provide reflectivity composites with wide spatial coverage and a continuous timeline. This information allows the monitoring of the whole life cycle of MCS and also of minor convective structures. As the rainfall amount is usually underestimated by radar, and this fact increases with range and beam blocking [23], a rain gauge network with good coverage provides a complementary source to reproduce small-scale variability in rainfall [24].

The main objective of the present work is to determine if whether storm cells are more concentrated in some areas of Barcelona than in others. In a first step, radar data will be combined with observations from rain gauges to find significant rainfall episodes in Barcelona. A radar-based methodology is developed to identify convective cells in those relevant episodes, and a further study is carried out to localise the areas of the city where convective cells are most frequently located to achieve the objective. The identification and characterisation of storms aim to increase understanding to improve short-term forecasts. The performance of early warning systems will improve in conjunction with better forecasts, reducing the impact of severe weather. Section 2 details the region of interest, BCASA water management system, the different data sources and explains the methodology. Then in Section 3, all the different results are shown, and in Section 4, they are discussed. Finally, in Section 5, the conclusions are reached.

## 2. Data and Methodology

This section first describes the region of study and explains the water cycle management system in Barcelona. Then it goes on to share the data sources, and finally, it details the methodology.

# 2.1. Region of Interest

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) is placed in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, about 120 km to the south of the Pyrenees (Figure 1a). It covers more than 600 km<sup>2</sup>, and it is densely urbanised (36 municipalities comprising over 3.2 million people) with very frequent heavy rainfall events. It is naturally limited by the Mediterranean Sea (east), the Collserola mountain range (west), the river Llobregat (south) and the river Besós (north) (Figure 1b). In addition, different hills are within the city. Torrential streams born in the Littoral Mountain range and hills usually experience flash floods in autumn, as a consequence of heavy rainfalls favoured by the orography. Additionally, both of the main rivers surrounding the city have experienced historical catastrophic floods. Barcelona is the second most populated city in Spain, with more than 1,600,000 inhabitants (2018). It covers around 101 km<sup>2</sup>. Floods are relatively frequent in the city, with more than three pluvial flood episodes per year (109 flood events were registered between 1981–2015 according to [17]). In general, they cause damage to basements and ground floors, power outages, and create problems for urban traffic and public transportation. Floods can even affect historical or heritage buildings, given their locations in flood-prone areas.



**Figure 1.** (**a**) Geographical location of Catalonia and the Region of Interest (ROI). (**b**) ROI (in red) and the region selected to analyse radar data. White dots represent the rain gauge network managed by BCASA. The main rivers surrounding Barcelona (Llobregat and Besós) are labelled, as well as the main mountain range (Collserola).

In the present study, the comparison between radar data, surface observations and impact data will focus on Barcelona city and Cornellà (see Section 2.4.1 for more details). The mentioned area will be referenced as the Region of Interest (ROI). Nevertheless, to have a better understanding of the phenomena within the ROI, the analysed area for each episode from a radar point of view has been extended about 10 km<sup>2</sup> from the ROI (Figure 1b).

## 2.2. Water Cycle Management and Alert System in Barcelona

The first attempt to improve resilience to city floods in Barcelona (Spain) was in 1988 with the design of a specific sewerage plan (within the context of the 1992 Olympics) that sought to facilitate water evacuation off the streets by means of building large water collectors near the sea (breakwaters). In 1992, Barcelona City Council created a consortium partnership, Clavegueram de Barcelona S.A. (CLABSA), to complete this task. After some years, on 21 September 1995, a flood caused one death, and the city collapsed (2500 emergency calls, 25 flooded metro stations, 80 incidents in the sewer system, etc.) because of a local daily rainfall of 91.9 mm and a maximum 5-min rainfall intensity of 235 mm/h [25]. That unfortunate flood event showed the need for more actions to improve the management of intense rainfall events in the city. In 1997, BCASA published a new specific sewerage plan for Barcelona (PECLAB'97), diagnosing the drainage problems in the city and proposing a new series of actions for improvement. From 1997 to 2004, a series of slide gates and underground stormwater retention tanks were built, and rain gauges began to be installed in several locations in the city. In addition, a remote system to control the slide gates and water tanks was implemented. Overall, the system was designed to prevent floods for the 10-year event precipitation, and even at some points for a 50-year event [26]. In 2014, Barcelona City Council decided to turn the CLABSA consortium into a public enterprise to manage the entire water cycle in the city: Barcelona Cicle de l'Aigua S.A. (BCASA). They handle all the related water processes: sewerage, rainwater tanks, groundwater system, seawater quality control, flooding risk at riverside parks and rainfall intensity warnings.

Nowadays, BCASA manages 13 underground water tanks and 2 surface flooding areas with a capacity of 477,010 m<sup>3</sup>. They also monitor real-time rainfall data from their rain gauge network, compounded by 23 Lambrecht and Geónica tipping bucket sensors (with an accuracy of 0.1 mm) that cover the entire area of Barcelona (Figure 1b). The forecasting team at BCASA is always informed with the latest weather forecast and the radar weather observations from the Meteorological Service of Catalonia (SMC) along with nearly real-time rain gauge data from the network (5-min updating frequency). The automatic alert system processes the data from the rain gauge network and based on 20-min and 60-min rainfall intensities (maximum and average), it issues five different alert levels for Barcelona ("Nivel de Alerta a Barcelona", NAB) (Table 1). The first three levels act as a warning, so the current automatic protocols are revised by experts, and the different contributors to emergency prevention and mitigation are revised to ensure the situation is being controlled automatically, with no incidents. Level four suggests that Civil Protection should activate the Alert Plan for possible floods in Barcelona. Finally, level five activates an emergency, and the expert committee meets to coordinate the situation in the city. At this point, BCASA contributes as an information provider and experienced consultant.

**Table 1.** BCASA criteria to activate the alert level in Barcelona (NAB). Levels are based on two precipitation intensity thresholds (20 min intensity,  $I_{20}$  and 60 min intensity,  $I_{60}$ ). PAB = Forecast of a possible alert in Barcelona.

			Rainfall Level				
NAB		PAB	High Intensity Indicator (I <sub>20</sub> )	Prolonged Rain Indicator (I <sub>60</sub> )			
0	INACTIVE	0	-	-			
1 2	STANDBY SURVEILLANCE	1; 2	$0 \text{ mm/h} (\text{T}_{20} > 0)$ $20 \text{ mm/h} (\text{T}_{20} < 0.1)$	$0 \text{ mm/h} (\text{T}_{60} > 0)$ $10 \text{ mm/h} (\text{T}_{60} < 0.1)$			
3 4 5	PRE-ALERT ALERT EMERGENCY	≥3	$\begin{array}{l} 30 \text{ mm/h} \ (\text{T}_{20} \approx 0.15) \\ 50 \text{ mm/h} \ (\text{T}_{20} \approx 0.4) \\ 70 \text{ mm/h} \ (\text{T}_{20} \approx 1) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{l} 15 \text{ mm/h}  (T_{60} \approx 0.15) \\ 25 \text{ mm/h}  (T_{60} \approx 0.4) \\ 35 \text{ mm/h}  (T_{60} \approx 1) \end{array}$			

The average number of alerts activated per year is between 3 and 4, but it varies from one year to the next. Furthermore, as urban floods in Barcelona have very short time scales and are rapidly solved, the emergency level is rarely activated. The combination of the automatic sewerage and drainage systems, along with an alert protocol, allows a coordinated effort with Civil Protection and authorities when flash floods occur in the city.

# 2.3. Data Sources

## 2.3.1. Radar Data from the Meteorological Service of Catalonia (SMC)

Radar data used in this study belong to the radar network of the Meteorological Service of Catalonia (XRAD). XRAD is composed of four radars distributed in strategic points throughout Catalonia (Figure 2): Puig Bernat in Vallirana (PBE, installed in 2000), Puig d'Arques in Cruïlles, Monells and Sant Sadurní de l'Heura (PDA, 2002), la Creu del vent in La Panadella, Montmaneu (CDV, 2003) and La Miranda, in Tivissa-Llaberia (LMI, 2008). Each works on three tasks: one long-range task (250 km), which operates at a set of elevations that are part of the radar volume with similar characteristics, and two short-range tasks (130–150 km), from which different products are created. Composite products are created from individual radar products. They cover the whole region of Catalonia and its surroundings (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Map showing the north-eastern Iberian Peninsula and southern France. The black outer line represents the long-range coverage of XRAD, and the inner line represents the short-range coverage. The labels and orange dots correspond to each XRAD radar. LMI (La Miranda), CDV (Creu del vent), PBE (La Panadell), and PDA (Puig d'Arques i Cruïlles).

All radar products used here are a composition of the images provided by the four different radars. The first one is the daily Quantitative Precipitation Estimation (QPE), corrected with EHIMI (Hydrometeorological Integrated Forecasting Tool) [27] and observational data from the Automatic Weather Stations network of the SMC (XEMA). It is a short-range product with  $1 \times 1 \text{ km}^2$  spatial resolution. Data files have been available in 'GeoTIFF' format since 2013. In a second stage, to identify convective cells, the maximum surface reflectivity compositions, and short-range reflectivity compositions on 10 vertical levels, CAPPIs (Plan Position Indicator of Constant Altitude), are also used. This product has a vertical extension between 1 km and 10 km (by 1 km) and has a time resolution of 6 min and a spatial resolution of  $2 \times 2 \text{ km}^2$ . Considering all vertical levels available

adds more robustness to the method when identifying convective cells than when only considering the lowest levels (see Section 2.4.3).

# 2.3.2. BCASA Rain Gauge Network and Database

As mentioned in Section 2.2, the rain gauge data from the BCASA network (Figure 1b) are stored in a database. As the network is composed of tipping bucket devices, the information is stored when the bucked fills up and turns over. This information must be converted to minute intensities or hourly rainfall accumulations, depending on how it will be applied. Since 2011, there has also been a separate database with post-event rainfall reports for all the different episodes that have exceeded the rainfall volume of 1 mm. This second database includes for each episode the date of occurrence, daily average and maximum precipitation, average and maximum 20-min and 60-min intensities and NAB (Table 1). When the NAB reaches or exceeds level 3, information about the related incidents is requested by Barcelona City Council and is also included in the database. These incidents are usually related to the sewer system, but they also include flooding on streets, in the metro and basements.

Hourly rainfall data from the different stations of the rain gauge network were used in the study to calculate 24-h rainfall accumulation. These data were cleaned and prepared in advance for the purposes of this study. The rainfall reports were also used to classify rainfall events in Barcelona into different categories according to their impact by means of NAB.

## 2.4. Methodology

Figure 3 shows the different steps followed in the present study. In the following subsections, every process is explained in greater detail.



Figure 3. Conceptual scheme of the followed methodology.

## 2.4.1. Database Creation: Significant Rainfall Episodes inside ROI

The first objective was to identify all the significant rainfall episodes within the ROI (cities of Barcelona and Cornellà) that were recorded between April 2013 to December 2018. The reason why it did not start in January is because the SMC started to generate volumetric georeferenced radar files (with the actual format) at the beginning of 2013, but during the first few months, some adjustments had to be made to obtain good quality data. Therefore, the first months of radar data were not used.

For the purposes of this study, a significant rainfall episode was defined as a single rainfall day in which a minimum of 10 mm of accumulated rain was exceeded at a given point. Rainfall accumulations were computed every day from 00:00 UTC to 23:59 UTC. If the precipitation continued after 23:59 UTC, two different episodes were defined. Fol-

lowing these criteria, episodes were identified from radar QPE (Quantitative Precipitation Estimation) computed over 24 h ( $P_{max}$ ) at a pixel resolution of  $1 \times 1 \text{ km}^2$ . The identification of significant rainfall episodes was also carried out independently by selecting the days that met the criteria from the rain gauge network of BCASA. Episodes obtained from both sources were then compared. If episodes did not appear in both lists, an analysis was carried out to determine if the rainfall within the ROI was significant or if it was an inaccuracy in the data from one of the systems.

NAB criteria from BCASA were incorporated (Table 1) to analyse the episodes that caused major stress to the city in greater detail. A sub-selection of episodes for which BCASA issued an NAB alert level greater than or equal to three was considered for the analysis. Furthermore, to have a more complete view of the impact on the city, reported incidents by the Barcelona City Council were also incorporated.

#### 2.4.2. Comparison of Rain Gauge Data and Radar Data for Rainfall Episodes

Rain gauge data were only available for the specific sites where devices are installed. So, when comparing data from the radar network, radar QPE values must be extracted for each episode on the same coordinates (longitude and latitude) where the BCASA rain gauges are located. Using similar statistics as Trapero et al. [23,28], the Bias (expressed in mm) and the Root Mean Square Factor (RMSf) were calculated for each rainfall episode:

$$BIAS = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10 \times \log\left[\frac{QPE_{rad}}{QPE_{gau}}\right]$$
(1)

$$RMSf = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \ln \left[ \frac{QPE_{rad}}{QPE_{gau}} \right] \right)^2}$$
(2)

where *N* is the number of points where either  $QPE_{rad}$  or  $QPE_{gau}$  are greater than 0.1 mm. The *RMSf* is a dispersion indicator, so it should be larger whenever the episode has high variability. That will happen if the rainfall episode is highly convective. Otherwise, if Bias is close to zero, radar and rain gauges agree in rainfall accumulations, while Bias values smaller or greater than zero will indicate either that the radar underestimated or overestimated the rainfall amounts, respectively.

#### 2.4.3. Analysis of Storm Hotspots with Radar

Nowadays, there is wide literature about weather radar applications, such as works focused on forecasting [29–31], some others about the characteristics of meteorological patterns [32] or about the identification of convective structures [29,33]. In this last case, there are strategies for identifying storm structures from levels near the surface [32,34,35] and others with a higher degree of complexity that use volumetric thresholds and can require a long processing time [29,33]. In this work, two approaches were explored to identify the sites within the ROI where intense rainfalls are most prone to occur. These methods have low computation requirements and can be run over a great number of rainfall events, as well as in an operative way. The first approach was an analysis of radarmaximum surface reflectivity products, while the second was based on CAPPI products.

The first approach analyses radar data files of 24 h maximum reflectivity intensity at surface level. For each radar file (maximum values of surface reflectivity for an episode), three different thresholds were established: 30 dBZ, 45 dBZ and 55 dBZ. For each episode and threshold, a density map of threshold exceedance was generated. The resulting products show the number of episodes that surpassed a threshold at a pixel resolution of  $1 \times 1 \text{ km}^2$ . In this way, the most frequent locations where surface reflectivity values were high could be identified.

As has been mentioned, the second approach consisted of establishing a fast methodology to do the identification of convective cells. It was applied for all the significant episodes. For this task, CAPPI products from XRAD were used. As explained in Section 2.3.1, these are volumetric files containing different vertical levels of reflectivity at a time resolution of 6 min. The algorithm was programmed as an R script. For each time step, the following procedure was applied:

- The script searches for all the pixels (2 × 2 km<sup>2</sup>) inside Barcelona and the surrounding area (a radius of about 10 km from the limits of the city) that comply with these three criteria: (1) the maximum reflectivity value surpasses the threshold of 35 dBZ, (2) reflectivity achieves at least 30 dBZ above 3 km of altitude, and (3) at least five contiguous pixels match the previous conditions.
- 2. All the adjacent pixels that meet these conditions will be grouped into a single convective cell. It is possible to identify other convective cells in the same image as long as the distance between them is at least one pixel.
- 3. The information that characterises each convective cell is stored in a text file. This information covers the date of the event, the time when the cell was detected, the longitude and latitude coordinates of the centre of the cell, how many pixels it is made of, its overall area, and if there were other cells at the same time inside the analysed region.

The restriction of a minimum number of pixels to meet the reflectivity conditions is imposed to avoid the consideration of isolated reflectivity maximums without enough organisation as convective storm cells.

Both [29] or [33] also proposed a minimum size for convective cells and used CAPPI values, but they had used more complex 3D algorithms to identify them. They both consider a wider range of thresholds at different vertical levels. They are useful for nowcasting operations [33] as well as to analyse anomalous movements [31], but in coastal regions, where shallow convection is prone to occur, those complex 3D algorithms can be too restrictive to characterise significant storms. Therefore, the described algorithm seems more appropriate to this study. Even when it is based on simple restrictions, it considers the altitude of convective structures (simplified 3D algorithm), which makes it more robust than other 2D algorithms [32,35]. The simplifications make the methodology computationally efficient, which allows the analysis of a very large number of episodes in a short time.

## 3. Results

## 3.1. Database Creation: Rainfall Episodes

Between April 2013 and December 2018, 163 rainfall episodes that met the criteria (Section 2.4.1) were found in both data sets (XRAD and BCASA networks). However, there were 58 additional episodes detected only by radar. For those episodes, a deeper analysis was carried out, concluding the following:

- In 38 cases, BCASA rainfall observations registered precipitation between 1 and 10 mm at some places.
- In 6 cases, rainfall recorded by BCASA network was under 1 mm, but radar showed a congruent rainfall field.
- In a further 14 cases, the rainfall field barely crossed the border of ROI, or rainfall occurred mainly over the sea. The algorithm used to find the significant episodes from radar data has classified the day as a significant rainfall episode, but the detailed analysis revealed that it was not significant at all. These cases were not included in the final list of episodes.

The differences found in the first two types of missing episodes may be due to the different spatial coverage of both types of sensors. Given that the radar has a homogeneous coverage in the study area, these 44 cases were considered good, reaching a total number of 207 significant rainfall episodes in the ROI between April 2013 and December 2018 (shown in Appendix A, Table A1).

Major differences in the number of episodes between both sources were shown by the end of spring and the beginning of autumn: a difference of 9 episodes in June, 12 in July, 11 in September and 12 in October. Summer events are usually very convective, short and local, and for this reason, they may not have been detected by the rain gauge network. Despite the good spatial resolution of the rain gauge network, convective precipitation can be highly localised and not detected by any rain gauge [36]. Moreover, anomalous propagation of the radar beam under certain atmospheric conditions [37] or other anomalous echoes that may identify precipitating nuclei when they do not exist can be considered.

The yearly distribution of these significant episodes is shown in Figure 4. December was the month with the least episodes, and September had the most. Overall, from February to August, there were between 12 and 18 episodes per month. It was during autumn (from September to November) when the greater number of episodes was found.



Climatology 2013 – 2018 of Significant episodes in ROI

Figure 4. Monthly evolution of significant rainfall episodes from April 2013 to December 2018.

The distribution along the year of significant rainfall episodes in this work is consistent with previous studies carried out in the same region for longer periods. In Catalonia, there is a large spatial and temporal variability in terms of the annual rainfall cycle, with typically short thunderstorms during summer and spring and larger events during late autumn and winter [20,36]. In addition, Barrera et al. [8] and Cortès et al. [5] showed that most of the floods in Barcelona are concentrated between the end of summer and autumn, with the maximum number of episodes per month in September.

When filtering rainfall episodes using the NAB level issued by BCASA, that were greater than or equal to 3, there were 64 cases in the studied period (Table A2 in Appendix A). Analysing the dates for the episodes with the highest alert level (NAB = 4) in Table A2, one observes they were not uniformly distributed throughout the year. They seemed more likely to occur from July to November, but since there were only 17 cases over a 6-year period, it was not possible to determine any kind of trend. Referring to those with NAB equal to 3, the probability of occurrence was higher from May to November, with a maximum average of cases per month in August and September. These results are consistent with [36]. According to the data, there was no evidence of an upward trend for episodes with greater NAB, but again, the study period is too short.

NAB is an alert indicator, but it is not directly related to the impacts in the city. For this reason, incidents reported by Barcelona City Council were also included (Table A2 in Appendix A). It stands out that not all the episodes with the highest precipitation values

had the most reported number of incidents. In fact, incidents were only reported for 28 of them. The first four episodes that reported the largest number of events took place in the last year of the study (2018). From October to November of the same year, there was an unusually high occurrence of extraordinary rainfall episodes in the city. In general, NAB = 4 cases had more reported incidents per episode than NAB = 3 ones. These episodes were mainly concentrated in November, March, September and October. Considering the total number of incidents per year, 2018 (with 353) was the most reported year. The second was 2014 (174), then 2017 (75), 2016 (58), 2015 (17) and finally 2013 (15). Since 2013, there has been an increasing trend in the number of incidents per year, but this could be caused by the reporting methodology. In the past, Barcelona City Council gathered water-related incidents through phone calls from citizens. Today, BCASA manages the database and has changed the way in which information is obtained. They want to obtain a greater variety of rain-related incidents in order to create a more robust database. Table 2 shows the annual distribution of the rainfall episodes with reported incidents. In all the winter seasons, no episode was reported with these characteristics. The episodes with the highest alert level were most concentrated in the autumn seasons. Nevertheless, the number of those events reported during summers was also significant. Overall, there was a similar number of cases with NAB = 3, spread over the spring, summer, and autumn periods.

**Table 2.** Seasonal distribution of episodes with the most impact in Barcelona based on the reported incidents from April 2013 to December 2018. The seasons considered were winter (December, January, and February), spring (May, April, and March), summer (June, July, and August) and autumn (September, October, and November). The values shown are the number of episodes for each category (NAB equal to 3 or 4) per season, observed maximum, minimum and median values for maximum cumulated precipitation in an episode for each season, and 25 and 75 percentiles for the same variable for each season.

			NAB 4									
Season	No. of Ep.	P <sub>max 24h</sub> (mm)				No. of Em	P <sub>max 24h</sub> (mm)					
		Max	Min	Med	25%	75%	NO. 01 Lp.	Max	Min	Med	25%	75%
Winter	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Spring	4	33.00	12.40	26.85	26.23	38.65	2	101.20	57.80	79.50	68.65	90.35
Summer	3	26.15	30.35	35.60	65.80	28.80	5	65.80	28.80	44.40	39.40	55.3
Autumn	5	40.30	37.50	53.30	133.40	28.10	9	133.40	28.10	94.90	45.50	101.2

After analysing the maximum cumulative precipitation (BCASA network) on the previously sub-selected episodes with reported incidents (Table 2), the ones with NAB equal to 3 indicated a maximum between 12.45 and 40.30 mm. Episodes with NAB equal to 4 showed a wider range of values: there were episodes with maximums from 28.10 to more than 110 mm (cumulative rainfall over 24 h) and an exceptional case with 133.4 mm. It must be noted how on some intense rainfall episodes, few or no incidents were reported, but also, episodes with a significant impact on the city and without large rainfall accumulations were also found. Table 2 also displays the seasonal variability of maximums collected in those rainfall episodes. Higher maximum values were observed in both the spring and autumn seasons. Looking at the 75% percentile, episodes with NAB = 3 had larger rainfall accumulations in spring, while for those with NAB = 4, the larger accumulations occurred during autumn.

When trying to establish trends and patterns in terms of impacts on the city of Barcelona, it seems that the number of episodes with reported incidents shows a decreasing trend over the analysed period, except for 2018, where an unusually high number of extraordinary rainfall episodes compromised the normal running of the city. There is no doubt that rainwater management systems (such as rainwater tanks) and correct maintenance of the sewerage system, coordinated by BCASA, have had an important role in decreasing damage in the city [8], which again highlights the importance of early warning systems in order to be prepared against the most significant events.

#### 3.2. Comparison of Rain Gauge Data and Radar Data for Rainfall Episodes

For each episode on the database, maximum cumulative precipitation on rain gauge locations from radar products and rain gauge data were compared, as explained in Section 2.4.2 of methodology. For the 207 cases presented in the previous section, the overall difference (BIAS) was calculated, as well as the RMSE. In Figure 5, the seasonal distribution of BIAS and RMSE is shown. Episodes with no observational rain gauge data (3 of them) were counted as radar overestimation cases. For some months (from May to October), the radar struggled to reproduce the observations from the BCASA network, and a trend to rainfall overestimation was observed. This is a consequence of using a single Z-R relationship throughout the year. Radar QPE calculations do not distinguish the water phase, but when there is ice in the clouds, the reflectivity values are much higher than usual, and the resulting QPE may be much higher than the real figures. This applies to hail episodes (relatively frequent in Catalonia and the ROI [29]).



P24h Radar vs rain gauges networks

**Figure 5.** Seasonal distribution of the calculated 24 h rainfall BIAS and RMSE between XRAD products and the BCASA rain gauge network for the 207 rainfall episodes in the ROI.

SMC had previously calculated the overall bias of its radar network in Catalonia. For each episode, they compared point by point, the accumulated precipitation with the observations from an automatic weather station network (XEMA), also managed by the SMC. From June to September, SMC gets an overall positive bias, which is consistent with the results in Figure 5. But in this work, the positive bias also extended to October. This is also consistent with the SMC calculations, as they also documented a positive bias along the coastline of Catalonia from September to November. However, overall, this bias was compensated with a negative bias inland (not shown).

By comparing maximum cumulative precipitation values from both sources for episodes with NAB greater than or equal to 3, a trend towards radar overestimation can be observed. A larger study with a greater number of episodes with the same characteristics is needed to analyse this tendency in more detail. With the available data, it seems XRAD has a better ability to reproduce more accurate maximum values when NAB is equal to 3 than when it is equal to 4. It is also important to note that the rain gauge network is not as dense as the radar resolution data, so for highly convective precipitation with wide intensity gradients, radar measurements may be more accurate [24].

# 3.3. Storm Hotspot Analysis with Radar

# 3.3.1. Analysis of Surface Maximum Reflectivity Maps

Following the first approach, the frequency of exceeding a surface reflectivity of 30 dBZ in significant rainfall episodes is shown (Figure 6). The procedure was repeated two more times, raising the target threshold to surpass a surface reflectivity of 45 dBZ (Figure 7) and once again for 55 dBZ (not shown).



**Figure 6.** Distribution of maximum surface reflectivity surpassing 30 dBZ. It shows the frequency on each pixel for significant rainfall episodes. The grey contour lines show regions of a constant height (m). The red solid line outlines the ROI. Inside, black solid lines divide the different districts labelled as follows: 01—Ciutat Vella, 02—Eixample, 03—Sants-Montjuïc, 04—Les Corts, 05—Sarrià, 06—Sant Gervasi, 07—Horta-Guinardó, 08—Nou Barris, 09—Sant Andreu, 10—Sant Martí, and 20—Cornellà de Llobregat.



Figure 7. Same as Figure 6, for 45 dBZ.

Figure 6 shows the greatest concentration of pixels with the highest frequencies in the north-eastern part of the ROI, mostly near the coast. In the Sant Martí district, for more than 81% of the cases, maximum surface reflectivity exceeded 30 dBZ. Another hotspot can be observed in Ciutat Vella and Nou Barris (for more than 80% of significant episodes). Furthermore, Cornellà de Llobregat, Sant Andreu and Horta-Guinardó surpassed the threshold in up to 80% of the studied episodes. When repeating the procedure with the 45 dBZ threshold, the number of significant episodes exceeding the threshold significantly decreased (Figure 7), but three different areas had a higher frequency of episodes surpassing the threshold. This occurred in the Sant Martí and Sant Andreu districts, with maximum frequencies up to 16%, in Ciutat Vella and Eixample with frequencies around 15%, and locally in the north-eastern part of Sarrià with 14% of cases. On the other hand, surface reflectivity values above 55 dBZ were rarely achieved inside the ROI, just in 1% of the significant episodes analysed for some of the pixels inside Sarrià and Ciutat Vella districts (not shown).

# 3.3.2. Analysis of Convective Cells on Rainfall Episodes

The second approach was applied to the 207 rainfall episodes to identify convective cells within the area (ROI and a surrounding 10 km buffer). As a result, more than 8000 centroids of convective cells from 189 cases were obtained. Figure 8 shows the spatial distribution of these centroids inside ROI. A higher density of centroids was identified in four different zones:

- In the north-north-eastern part of the city, mostly affecting the Nou Barris and Horta-Guinardó districts, and the northern part of the Gràcia district.
- Right in the middle of the city, affecting the Eixample district, southern Gràcia and northern Sants-Montjuïc.
- The west part of the municipality of Cornellà de Llobregat.
- In the northwest of the Sant Martí district.



**Figure 8.** Distribution of centroids of convective cells for significant episodes. The numbers refer to Barcelona districts, and they are detailed on Figure 6.

Some of the mentioned districts also had high rates of surpassing the 45 dBZ threshold for surface reflectivity. Nevertheless, when comparing spatial distributions between Figures 7 and 8, they were not so similar. While maximum surface reflectivity values over 45 dBZ were more prone to occur near the coastline, the centroids of storm cells tended to concentrate more inland, right in the middle of the studied area. This means that, even when the intensity of radar reflectivity is related to rainfall intensity, it is not the only factor to monitor to prevent flash floods.

For all the episodes with an NAB greater than or equal to 3, one or more convective cells were found by the algorithm. When analysing the hourly distribution of convective cells for these episodes, two maximums were obtained:

- Around 07:00 UTC time (in the morning), a relative maximum.
- From 15:00 to 20:00 UTC time (afternoon), reaching the peak at 17:00 UTC.

These results are consistent with a diurnal convection cycle, with the first maxima right after convection starts due to diurnal heating and the second one after the peak, causing convection to develop. Nonetheless, it is worth mentioning that a lower frequency of convective storm cells was expected during the night, especially during the early hours of the day. One possible explanation could be related to anomalous propagation on the radar display. During steady nights where a temperature inversion is more likely, anomalous propagation may generate false echoes of intense reflectivity, and the effect is most prone to occur in coastal regions [37,38]. Those echoes can be wrongly identified as storm cells.

Although the ensemble of episodes with greater NAB was limited, Figure 9 shows the spatial distribution of centroids (a) and the same for episodes with reported incidents.



**Figure 9.** Distribution of storm cells centroids across all episodes with NAB 3 or 4 (**a**) and for episodes with the mentioned NAB levels and reported incidents (**b**).

When comparing Figures 8 and 9, some common features are revealed. Pixels with the highest concentrations of centroids were located on the lower side of complex terrain, with a higher number of centroids per pixel in the middle of the ROI. Darker pixels on Figure 9a are similar to those in Figure 8, but with a smaller number of centroids per pixel and a larger gradient between the most affected districts and the ones that were not so affected. Both figures agree that most of the centroids were found in the districts of Nou Barris, Horta-Guinardó, Eixample and Sants-Montjuïc. On the other side, Figure 9b highlights maximum concentrations on Cornellà and on the border between Nou Barris and Horta-Guinardó districts. In addition, some pixels had slightly higher concentrations of centroids on the southern part of Gràcia, on Sarrià and les Corts and on the border between Montjuïc, Ciutat Vella and Eixample.

### 4. Discussion

Rainfall episodes with a greater impact on Barcelona are not the only factor linked to flood hazards, but vulnerability and exposure also play an important role [3]. Between 1351 and 2005, 85 flash floods and pluvial floods seriously affected the city of Barcelona [8]. The analysis of this long period showed a positive trend of extraordinary floods from

the middle 19th century until the first years of the 20th century, that was mainly due to the walls' destruction that partially acted as a protection in front of flash-floods; urban planning that did not include a suitable waste and drainage systems; the great population increase (from 1,555,236 in 1950 to 3,213,775 inhabitants in 2015) and the change in uses of soil [6]. The comparison between land use maps between 1956 and 2009 shows that around 80% of the agricultural soil in the area analysed was substituted by urban surfaces and the road network (increase of more than 225%) [5]. As a consequence of this change in the uses of the soil, the runoff in Barcelona increased 19% for this period. The improvements in sewerage systems and flood prevention infrastructures that were introduced in the 1990s changed the sign of this trend. Although nowadays it is negative, anomalous years can be recorded. In this sense, 2018 was an anomalous year with the greatest number of extremely intense rainfall episodes and reported incidents of the analysed period.

Identifying rainfall episodes with a combination of both XRAD and BCASA information seemed a good approach since considering a single source can lead to the detection of some non-real rainfall episodes. During the winter, XRAD had good agreement with rain gauge data about maximum cumulated precipitations in Barcelona. However, throughout May to October, radar showed higher amounts of precipitation.

Greater concentrations of convective cell centroids were identified on the lower side of the complex orography of Barcelona. This distribution did not exactly match with the locations more prone to surpass 45 dBZ (along the coastline). Some intense storms may not have high-intensity values of reflectivity, but still, they may have a high impact. It can be thought that the convective maxima near the sea are developed by the formation of convergence lines over the sea or in the coast, perhaps between the breeze and the maritime flow, while the maxima in the interior are associated with blockages and orographic forcing.

Although the pixels with the highest concentrations of centroids were different in the three different selections of episodes (Figures 7–9), it is clear from Figures 8 and 9 that the complex topography bounding the ROI plays a major role in the location of the storms linked to the studied centroids. The importance of small-scale topographic obstacles as a triggering factor for storms has been widely proved by several studies and models [6,39] as well as the influence of the sea and the topography on the motion of the storm systems [39]. Nevertheless, it is also important to highlight that rainfall patterns do not only respond to the influence of topography [40].

Finally, from a hazard point of view, urban flash floods response is a combination between the spatial-temporal distribution of precipitation, local drainage system and local relief inside the city [41]. In this study, only meteorological hazards and impacts were considered, but for a wider study on urban floods, it is essential to include the different urban land uses (natural drainage) and their runoff coefficients [42,43] as well as the drainage system. However, it must be said that the study by Cortès et al. [5] showed that although land uses can be very different in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, within the ROI they are essentially non-draining ones. The undergrown water retention system and sewerage management of BCASA have been designed according to these characteristics, and they are a key point to avoid fatalities and major economic losses in the city.

## 5. Conclusions

During this research, a new and relatively easy methodology was established to identify convective cells in the city of Barcelona. A database was created by combining data from the BCASA rain gauge network and XRAD radar products from April 2013 to December 2018. The methods used were also able to identify some areas in the city with a greater concentration of storm centroids than others. Results showed 207 significant rainfall episodes in the ROI for the six years, which were mainly concentrated between September and November. The fact that significant episodes were usually produced by highly convective rain corroborates the advantage of using radar images as a tool to detect any maxima even when no rain gauge is there. In 64 of the episodes, the level of pre-alert was achieved with a maximum frequency between August and September. The proposed

algorithm showed more than 8000 centroids of convective cells from 189 cases. While maximum surface reflectivity over 45 dBZ was more prone to occur near the coastline, the centroids of storm cells tended to concentrate more inland. Finally, from the 64 rainfall episodes that achieved the level of pre-alert or alert, a higher concentration of convective cells was found in the middle of the city with a time distribution that agrees with the maximum for convection activity (diurnal heating). The unexpectedly large number of centroids identified at night may be a consequence of unfiltered anomalous propagation.

Although this study focused on a small area, a more detailed analysis would provide a greater understanding of flash floods in Barcelona. A wider study period is needed and impacts on the city must be gathered more robustly. Furthermore, the usage of urban meteorological and hydrological models should be considered. For all these reasons, the role of specific institutions, such as BCASA, is increasingly important. Data need to be stored, cleaned, and analysed in robust ways, and monitoring and management systems need to be continually reviewed and improved in order to increase resilience to flash floods in Barcelona.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### Appendix A

Table A1. List of the 207 rainfall episodes inside ROI resulting from the combination of XRAD and BCASA data.

Date	P <sub>max</sub>	P <sub>max</sub>	Date	P <sub>max</sub>	P <sub>max</sub>	Date	P <sub>max</sub>	P <sub>max</sub>	Date	P <sub>max</sub>	P <sub>max</sub>
Duit	BCASA	XRAD	Duit	BCASA	XRAD	Dute	BCASA	XRAD	Dute	BCASA	XRAD
25 April 2013	17.4	16.2	17 September 2014	4.3	13.0	22 July 2016	18.6	21.9	26 January 2018	62.1	51.5
27 April 2013	23.6	28	22 September 2014	9.7	20.1	30 August 2016	12.3	13.0	1 February 2018	16.2	10.0
28 April 2013	13.4	14.4	23 September 2014	6.0	10.0	10 September 2016	11.5	5.0	4 February 2018	27.9	38.9
29 April 2013	16.7	27.8	28 September 2014	95.4	101.2	13 September 2016	24.9	28.1	5 February 2018	39.2	39.9
15 May 2013	32.7	38.3	29 September 2014	21.3	7.0	14 September 2016	18.2	20.8	8 February 2018	45.2	16.8
16 May 2013	6.7	17.7	30 September 2014	46.3	35.3	23 September 2016	57.4	69.4	12 February 2018	20.6	19.0
18 May 2013	7.9	10.8	5 October 2014	12.4	17.8	6 October 2016	31.5	28.1	28 February 2018	13.9	15.9
19 May 2013	16.5	23.8	3 November 2014	44.6	45.5	12 October 2016	61.1	77.7	20 March 2018	45.4	35.4
20 May 2013	10.3	12.1	4 November 2014	18.9	15.3	13 October 2016	62.2	54.0	24 March 2018	58.4	47.7
8 June 2013	25.1	28.8	26 November 2014	35.4	35.3	22 October 2016	8.2	10.0	26 March 2018	13.5	16.0
21 June 2013	5.6	15.5	27 November 2014	14.4	16.4	22 November 2016	12.6	13.4	8 April 2018	10.3	9.0
18 July 2013	33.4	36	29 November 2014	52.1	40.3	23 November 2016	28.5	32.5	10 April 2018	10.0	8.0
29 July 2013	3.8	12.1	30 November 2014	40.4	53.3	27 November 2016	14.0	21.9	11 April 2018	35.4	30.7
26 August 2013	19.3	15.5	15 December 2014	18.6	18.0	16 December 2016	19.3	16.5	13 April 2018	6.3	10.7
27 August 2013	2	19.4	19 January 2015	13.4	13.9	19 December 2016	16.9	17.9	14 April 2018	10.1	12.0
28 August 2013	2.6	15.1	4 February 2015	19.3	20.1	22 January 2017	6.9	13.0	1 May 2018	82.0	62.4
7 September 2013	24.4	23.2	5 February 2015	0.0	23.9	27 January 2017	23.6	23.1	13 May 2018	7.9	12.7
10 September 2013	1.5	83.4	4 March 2015	13.1	12.2	8 February 2017	14.2	16.4	22 May 2018	0.7	17.1

Date	P <sub>max</sub>	P <sub>max</sub>									
Dute	BCASA	XRAD									
11 September 2013	18.2	10.2	14 March 2015	22.5	12.5	13 February 2017	19.1	15.8	29 May 2018	11.0	9.0
4 October 2013	14.1	15.8	21 March 2015	36.3	21.6	24 February 2017	15.7	14.7	3 June 2018	21.0	29.2
6 October 2013	10.4	24.7	26 March 2015	11.8	17.5	3 March 2017	16.2	13.0	6 June 2018	39.8	37.2
7 October 2013	17.2	55.8	19 May 2015	43.4	55.6	4 March 2017	12.7	10.0	7 June 2018	18.3	30.9
8 October 2013	0.6	13.1	20 May 2015	34.3	28.5	24 March 2017	107.4	101.2	28 June 2018	3.5	12.2
9 October 2013	3.8	14.1	11 June 2015	11.9	13.7	25 March 2017	24.1	25.6	16 July 2018	50.5	44.4
11 October 2013	13.4	11.2	15 June 2015	29.9	26.6	1 April 2017	15.4	13.1	22 July 2018	18.7	15.5
16 November 2013	40.1	56.7	16 June 2015	3.4	10.9	5 April 2017	9.1	10.1	17 August 2018	64.9	65.8
17 November 2013	43.4	62.9	31 July 2015	10.0	14.2	26 April 2017	12.9	10.6	25 August 2018	4.0	13.0
18 November 2013	41.4	49.3	1 August 2015	23.4	14.0	27 April 2017	25.4	22.9	30 August 2018	11.7	12.5
19 December 2013	10.1	11.5	13 August 2015	32.7	32.3	11 May 2017	21.9	16.8	31 August 2018	73.2	77.5
19 January 2014	35.4	25.1	15 August 2015	17.0	17.5	4 June 2017	24.0	24.1	1 September 2018	14.2	15.7
29 January 2014	28.8	26.7	18 August 2015	18.2	26.7	5 June 2017	10.3	12.2	6 September 2018	92.2	94.9
9 February 2014	13.9	13.6	10 September 2015	35.2	37.5	30 June 2017	8.9	12.9	7 September 2018	39.6	76.3
30 March 2014	13.2	14.3	23 September 2015	19.0	13.9	25 July 2017	25.3	46.7	12 September 2018	40.5	41.1
31 March 2014	10.9	12.2	29 September 2015	17.4	20.7	8 August 2017	14.0	14.2	15 September 2018	1.1	40.2
3 April 2014	55.9	57.8	30 September 2015	26.5	23.2	31 August 2017	19.6	18.5	18 September 2018	40.0	27.0
22 April 2014	30.5	12.4	3 October 2015	38.0	80.1	6 September 2017	11.1	20.8	7 October 2018	21.2	26.3
26 May 2014	26.0	33.0	7 October 2015	38.9	69.4	9 September 2017	21.3	30.7	9 October 2018	102.8	118.2
28 May 2014	28.1	25.2	8 October 2015	5.6	17.9	12 September 2017	7.5	33.2	10 October 2018	21.9	21.7
30 May 2014	17.7	19.4	13 October 2015	13.9	22.2	14 September 2017	14.7	14.2	13 October 2018	14.0	12.2
15 June 2014	27.7	38.9	26 October 2015	9.0	17.0	15 September 2017	8.0	10.0	14 October 2018	44.5	49.8
16 June 2014	7.0	14.4	27 October 2015	7.8	14.9	18 September 2017	6.1	13.6	19 October 2018	18.9	28.9
17 June 2014	14.3	28.4	2 November 2015	60.6	52.8	22 September 2017	37.1	17.8	27 October 2018	29.9	31.2
4 July 2014	17.0	17.8	3 November 2015	7.2	53.4	26 September 2017	9.4	19.0	28 October 2018	9.8	14.1
7 July 2014	30.0	47.2	27 February 2016	30.4	26.4	1 October 2017	13.4	35.8	29 October 2018	0.0	12.6
28 July 2014	30.5	39.4	16 March 2016	29.4	19.7	18 October 2017	29.4	27.8	31 October 2018	60.1	52.5
29 July 2014	6.6	15.1	20 March 2016	23.8	18.4	19 October 2017	92.0	95.4	5 November 2018	9.9	11.9
2 August 2014	11.9	16.9	1 April 2016	19.5	19.2	20 October 2017	6.1	14.2	9 November 2018	37.7	32.1
15 August 2014	14.4	19.9	5 April 2016	21.5	21.3	04 November 2017	10.8	14.6	14 November 2018	2.6	11.0
22 August 2014	54.3	55.3	21 April 2016	30.0	35.3	25 November 2017	9.0	16.3	15 November 2018	138.5	133.4
5 September 2014	10.9	14.1	18 June 2016	28.8	23.9	2 December 2017	0.0	21.4	18 November 2018	18.7	12.1
14 September 2014	18.8	27.3	13 July 2016	4.8	12.8	7 January 2018	13.9	19.5	20 November 2018	11.0	10.9
16 September 2014	20.3	46.8	14 July 2016	0.9	24.0	13 January 2018	9.3	11.2			

**Table A2.** Rainfall episodes in Barcelona with NAB levels greater than or equal to 3. Maximum cumulative values of precipitation from radar data and rain gauges data are also provided along with the NAB level achieved and the number of incidents reported to Barcelona City Council.

Date	P <sub>max Rad</sub>	P <sub>max BCASA</sub>	NAB	Incidents
8 June 2013	28.8	25.1	4	15
18 July 2013	36.0	33.4	4	
7 September 2013	23.2	24.4	3	
4 October 2013	15.8	14.1	3	
17 November 2013	62.9	43.4	3	
19 January 2014	25.1	35.4	4	
29 January 2014	26.7	28.8	3	
3 April 2014	57.8	55.9	4	29
22 April 2014	12.4	30.5	3	
26 May 2014	33.0	26.0	3	28
28 May 2014	25.2	28.1	3	
30 May 2014	19.4	17.7	3	8
15 June 2014	38.9	27.7	3	6
17 June 2014	28.4	14.3	3	2
4 July 2014	17.8	17.0	3	
7 July 2014	47.2	30.0	3	
28 July 2014	39.4	30.5	4	20
29 July 2014	15.1	6.6	3	
2 August 2014	16.9	11.9	3	
15 August 2014	19.9	14.4	3	
22 August 2014	55.3	54.3	4	8

Table A1. Cont.

Date	P <sub>max Rad</sub>	P <sub>max BCASA</sub>	NAB	Incidents
14 September 2014	27.3	18.8	3	
16 September 2014	46.8	20.3	3	
28 September 2014	101.2	95.4	4	26
30 September 2014	35.3	46.3	3	
3 November 2014	45.5	44.6	4	34
26 November 2014	35.3	35.4	3	7
29 November 2014	40.3	52.1	3	5
30 November 2014	53.3	40.4	3	1
19 May 2015	55.6	43.4	3	1
20 May 2015	28.5	34.3	3	4
1 August 2015	14.0	23.4	3	
13 August 2015	32.3	32.7	3	4
15 August 2015	17.5	17.0	3	
10 September 2015	37.5	35.2	3	6
29 September 2015	20.7	17.4	3	
30 September 2015	23.2	26.5	3	
3 October 2015	80.1	38	3	1
7 October 2015	69.4	38.9	3	
2 November 2015	52.8	60.6	4	2
20 March 2016	18.4	23.8	3	
18 June 2016	23.9	28.8	3	
13 September 2016	28.1	24.9	3	
23 September 2016	69.4	57.4	3	
6 October 2016	28.1	31.5	4	58
13 October 2016	54.0	62.2	3	
24 March 2017	101.2	107.4	4	11
25 July 2017	46.7	25.3	3	
31 August 2017	18.5	19.6	3	
19 October 2017	95.4	92.0	4	64
26 January 2018	51.5	62.1	3	
1 May 2018	62.4	82.0	3	
6 June 2018	37.2	39.8	3	
16 July 2018	44.4	50.5	4	72
17 August 2018	65.8	64.9	4	25
31 August 2018	77.5	73.2	3	
6 September 2018	94.9	92.2	4	72
7 September 2018	76.3	39.6	3	
12 September 2018	41.1	40.5	4	11
18 September 2018	27.0	40.0	3	
9 October 2018	118.2	102.8	4	79
14 October 2018	49.8	44.5	3	
9 November 2018	32.1	37.7	3	
15 November 2018	133.4	138.5	4	94

Table A2. Cont.

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