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FLOODS SWEEP EAST ENGLAND

March comes in like a lion as 80-mile-an-hour gales lash the North Sea, putting acres of the Eastern Counties under water. At Snettisham, Norfolk, Army Docks and transports are out rescuing villagers and their belongings from homes marooned by the floods. Roads for miles along the coast are closed to traffic. Loss of life - nil; inconvenience - plenty.

At Skegness, summer sun-trap, there's worse to come. A blizzard follows up damage to the sea-front inflicted by shattering gales and high seas. After a mild start, the weather man's certainly making up for lost time.

Hunstanton reports the same story. Damage to the promenade alone is reckoned at £50,000.

Over to Heacham, where chalets blown into matchwood testify to the fury of the winds.

In London, at Millbank, the Thames tops its highest level for years as water seeps through the Embankment. A 24-hour guard if placed on the danger spots as nearby business premises, under inches of water, are evacuated. After days of alert, the crisis passes. And none too soon.