# Pipe explosion turns Benalmádena sea murky brown amid infrastructure fears



Footage from the Costa del Sol recently captured a shocking incident where a pipe explosion turned the sea a murky brown, just meters away from tourists enjoying their holiday. The scene unfolded in Benalmádena, where water surged from a cracked underground pipe, flowing through a popular resort area before streaming into the ocean. This distressing sight prompted alarm among holidaymakers, who watched with disbelief as large brown patches spread across the surf. One tourist, observing the chaotic situation from her beachfront balcony near the Globales Los Patos Park Hotel, could be heard asking a companion, "What's that? Are they cleaning something?" as bubbles began to rise from the centre of the stain.

As the situation escalated, local lifeguards acted quickly, moving beachgoers away from the discoloured water. The Town Hall of Benalmádena responded by raising a yellow flag warning shortly after midday, as the once-clear waters near the Hotel Spa Benalmádena Palace turned a troubling hue. Officials later attributed the incident to a rupture in a high-pressure water pipe, which they claimed released 'clean, drinkable water.' However, this spill managed to drag mud and sediment into the sea, creating the unsettling visual disturbance.

In an official statement, the Town Hall clarified that their public water firm, Acosol, had promptly addressed the leak. It declared that the affected pipe was "quite old and deteriorated," emphasising that the image was merely the natural result of sediment infiltration without any contamination posed to public health. Nevertheless, this assurance did little to quell public concern. One resident expressed frustration, questioning the volume of water lost before a proper fix could be implemented. Another commentator remarked sceptically that the pressure exhibited suggested that the water likely contained waste materials, particularly organic refuse from dog walkers frequenting the beach.

The incident in Benalmádena is part of a troubling trend regarding aging infrastructure on the Costa del Sol. Experts have warned that the risk of explosive ruptures in the water supply has increased significantly, particularly in municipalities such as Benalmádena, Marbella, and Estepona. These deteriorating pipelines, many dating back 50 years, have raised alarm bells among technicians. Acosol has indicated that some sections may need to be decommissioned entirely due to escalating risks of catastrophic failure.

The troubling narrative of adverse events associated with water infrastructure is not new to the region. Just weeks prior, a toxic chlorine cloud had forced around 160,000 residents and tourists into lockdown across various towns popular with visitors. A fire at a warehouse selling pool cleaning products had spewed toxic gas into the skies, prompting immediate emergency protocols. Thankfully, no injuries were reported in that instance, although the incident highlighted the vulnerability of local communities to environmental hazards.

Authorities resolved the Benalmádena incident by establishing a green flag later in the day after conditions normalised, but the public's patience is undoubtedly wearing thin. The social media outcry reflects widespread frustration over recurring water infrastructure issues, leaving locals and tourists alike to ponder the effectiveness of the measures being taken to avoid further mishaps in the future. As one resident articulated, this situation raises serious questions about the management of essential services in a region wholly dependent on its reputation as a premier tourist destination.

With trust in public health and safety measures at stake, it remains crucial for local officials to not just respond to emergencies but to mitigate the risks associated with outdated infrastructure and to reassure both residents and tourists that their welfare is the top priority.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14753537/Shocking-moment-pipe-explodes-near-Brit-tourists-balconies-turning-sea-brown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/andalucia/2025/05/26/la-rotura-de-una-tuberia-de-agua-potable-causa-una-gran-mancha-en-una-playa-de-benalmadena-ser-malaga/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14753537/Shocking-moment-pipe-explodes-near-Brit-tourists-balconies-turning-sea-brown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/benalmadena-beach-sewage-pipe-break-20220701115403-nt.html), [[5]](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/experts-warn-real-risk-explosive-ruptures-main-20240131113939-nt.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://cadenaser.com/andalucia/2025/05/26/la-rotura-de-una-tuberia-de-agua-potable-causa-una-gran-mancha-en-una-playa-de-benalmadena-ser-malaga/), [[5]](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/experts-warn-real-risk-explosive-ruptures-main-20240131113939-nt.html), [[6]](https://euroweeklynews.com/2024/07/28/burst-pipe-causes-muddy-havoc-benalmadena/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14753537/Shocking-moment-pipe-explodes-near-Brit-tourists-balconies-turning-sea-brown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/beach-reopens-after-sewage-pipe-break-20220624090846-nt.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/benalmadena-beach-sewage-pipe-break-20220701115403-nt.html), [[6]](https://euroweeklynews.com/2024/07/28/burst-pipe-causes-muddy-havoc-benalmadena/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14753537/Shocking-moment-pipe-explodes-near-Brit-tourists-balconies-turning-sea-brown.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://cadenaser.com/andalucia/2025/05/26/la-rotura-de-una-tuberia-de-agua-potable-causa-una-gran-mancha-en-una-playa-de-benalmadena-ser-malaga/> - A potable water pipe burst near Hotel Los Patos in Benalmádena, causing a significant stain on the nearby beach. The town hall confirmed that the water was clean and free from sewage. The incident affected Acosol's high-pressure water supply network, leading to immediate cessation of the leak and repair work. Two supply points, Cortijo Mena and El Hiper, were impacted. Acosol and local operator Emabesa coordinated to maintain service. The affected pipe was old and included in a planned renewal project. Yellow flags were initially raised due to return currents but were replaced with green flags once the situation normalised. ([cadenaser.com](https://cadenaser.com/andalucia/2025/05/26/la-rotura-de-una-tuberia-de-agua-potable-causa-una-gran-mancha-en-una-playa-de-benalmadena-ser-malaga/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/benalmadena-beach-sewage-pipe-break-20220701115403-nt.html> - A sewage pipe break in Benalmádena led to the closure of a beach area between Arroyo de la Miel and Malapesquera. The Costa del Sol Health District analysed the water and declared it suitable for swimming after a week. The beach reopened, and swimming was permitted once the water quality was confirmed. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/benalmadena-beach-sewage-pipe-break-20220701115403-nt.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/beach-reopens-after-sewage-pipe-break-20220624090846-nt.html> - Following a sewage pipe break in Benalmádena, the affected beach area reopened, but authorities advised against swimming until Monday, 27 June. The council awaited complete water analysis results before lifting the swimming ban. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/beach-reopens-after-sewage-pipe-break-20220624090846-nt.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/experts-warn-real-risk-explosive-ruptures-main-20240131113939-nt.html> - Experts have warned of the 'real risk' of explosive ruptures in the main Costa del Sol water supply pipeline. Technicians from Acosol highlighted the deteriorating state of the 50-year-old infrastructure, which poses significant personal and material damage risks. The frequency of ruptures has increased, with municipalities like Marbella, Estepona, Benalmádena, and Mijas affected. Technicians have advised considering the decommissioning of certain sections due to the escalating risk. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/experts-warn-real-risk-explosive-ruptures-main-20240131113939-nt.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://euroweeklynews.com/2024/07/28/burst-pipe-causes-muddy-havoc-benalmadena/> - A water pipe burst in Benalmádena's Calle Medina Azahara caused extensive flooding, affecting garages and streets. The burst pipe was old and had been scheduled for inspection and potential replacement. Acosol and the local council worked to repair the leak and restore water supply. Residents faced challenges cleaning mud and debris from their properties. ([euroweeklynews.com](https://euroweeklynews.com/2024/07/28/burst-pipe-causes-muddy-havoc-benalmadena/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/burst-pipe-floods-same-street-benalmadena-20241127141633-nt.html> - A burst pipe in Calle Medina Azahara, Benalmádena, caused flooding, leading to road closures and potential water cuts in surrounding homes. This incident marked the second flooding of the same street in four months due to a burst pipe. The town hall informed Acosol workers, who promptly addressed the issue. ([surinenglish.com](https://www.surinenglish.com/malaga/benalmadena-torremolinos/burst-pipe-floods-the-same-street-benalmadena-20241127141633-nt.html?utm_source=openai))