

Making Cheshire Safer

Community Information on Risks in Cheshire

Emergency preparedness and management of
the main risks in the County



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Contents:

Introduction.....	1
The Cheshire Profile	7
Top Risks	11
Pandemic flu.....	12
Flooding	14
Severe Weather.....	16
Loss of Critical National Infrastructure.....	19
Animal Diseases	21
Environmental Incidents.....	23
Industrial Incidents.....	25
Transport Incidents	27
Terrorist Threats	30
Preparedness	33
Want to know more.....	43
Contact us.....	45

Introduction

The Community Risk Register (CRR) provides information on the biggest emergencies that could happen in Cheshire, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the potential impacts if they do happen. This includes impacts on people, their houses, the community, environment and local businesses. These risks are regularly reviewed and have led to this new CRR document.



Purpose

This document is designed to inform people about the risks that could occur where they live, so they can think about what they can do to be better prepared in their homes, communities and businesses. Looking at all of the risks together can also help emergency services, local authorities and other organisations plan their joint response. The Community Risk Register (CRR) aims to help these agencies make decisions on emergency planning work, and will help them develop better relationships whilst considering their capabilities and capacity. Any gaps identified can then be dealt with appropriately, depending on the priority of the risk. The overall aim of this is to identify the generic capabilities, which are required in response to many of the risks, so we can develop a strong capacity to respond to any incident.

Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) – Who we are

The Cheshire Resilience Forum is here to prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergency. We bring together your local emergency services, National Health Service and local authorities, plus other agencies who can help to prepare and respond to any event.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) every part of the United Kingdom was required to establish a Local Resilience Forum – a multi-agency group covering a policing area which shares information and resources, and responds together to an incident.

Developing the capability and capacity to respond to emergencies

During emergencies we work together to focus on the needs of people affected, vulnerable people and responders. The partnership has developed a range of capabilities which we regularly test and exercise, necessary to help us manage most emergencies.

What we do

The aim of the Cheshire Resilience Forum is to work together to protect our community and make Cheshire the best prepared place for any emergency.

All Services and organisation's work together to ensure the best possible preparations and plans are in place for emergencies. These are regularly tested and updated so that a response is immediate and effective any threat.

All responders work together to a set of common objectives which will help to:

- Save lives
- Prevent disaster getting worse
- Relieve suffering
- Restore normality as soon as possible
- Protect property
- Facilitate a criminal investigation and judicial process if necessary

What is the Community Risk Register?

The CRF legally has to produce a Community Risk Register (CRR) to look at the likelihood and impact of a range of hazards.

Each resilience forum uses its own professional judgement, local experience and guidance from the national version of this document (National Risk Register) to put together its CRR. The National Risk Register is produced by the Government using historical and scientific data, and the professional judgement of experts to analyse the risks to the UK as a whole.

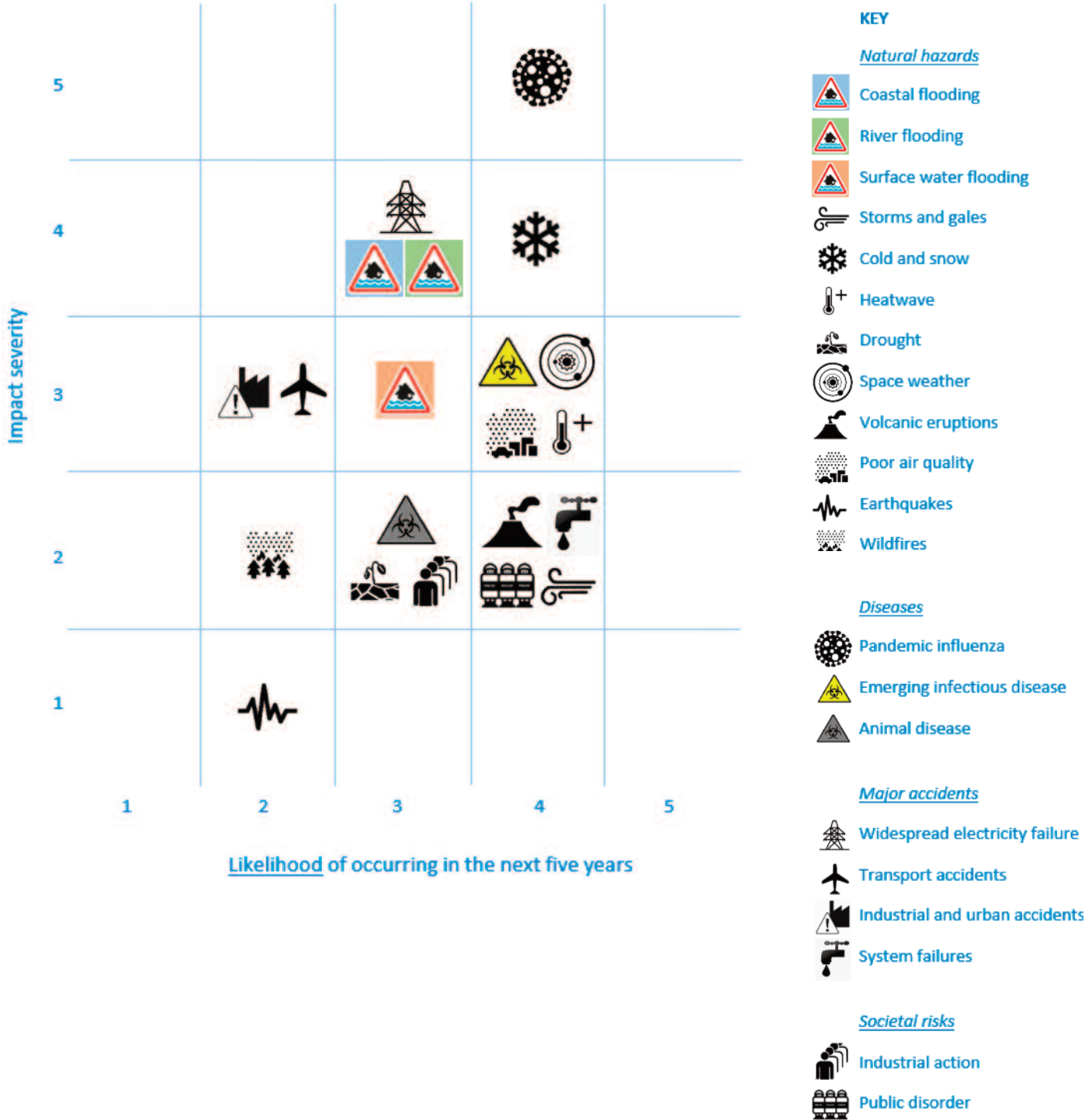
The Cheshire CRR helps identify emerging issues and also situations where a risk may be increasing or decreasing in our County. It helps highlight any gaps in an organisation's ability to respond to an emergency and indicates what response is required. ***If a risk is included in the CRR, it doesn't mean that it will happen.*** It means that we know it is a possibility, and together we have made arrangements to reduce its impact.



An illustration of the High Consequence risks facing the United Kingdom

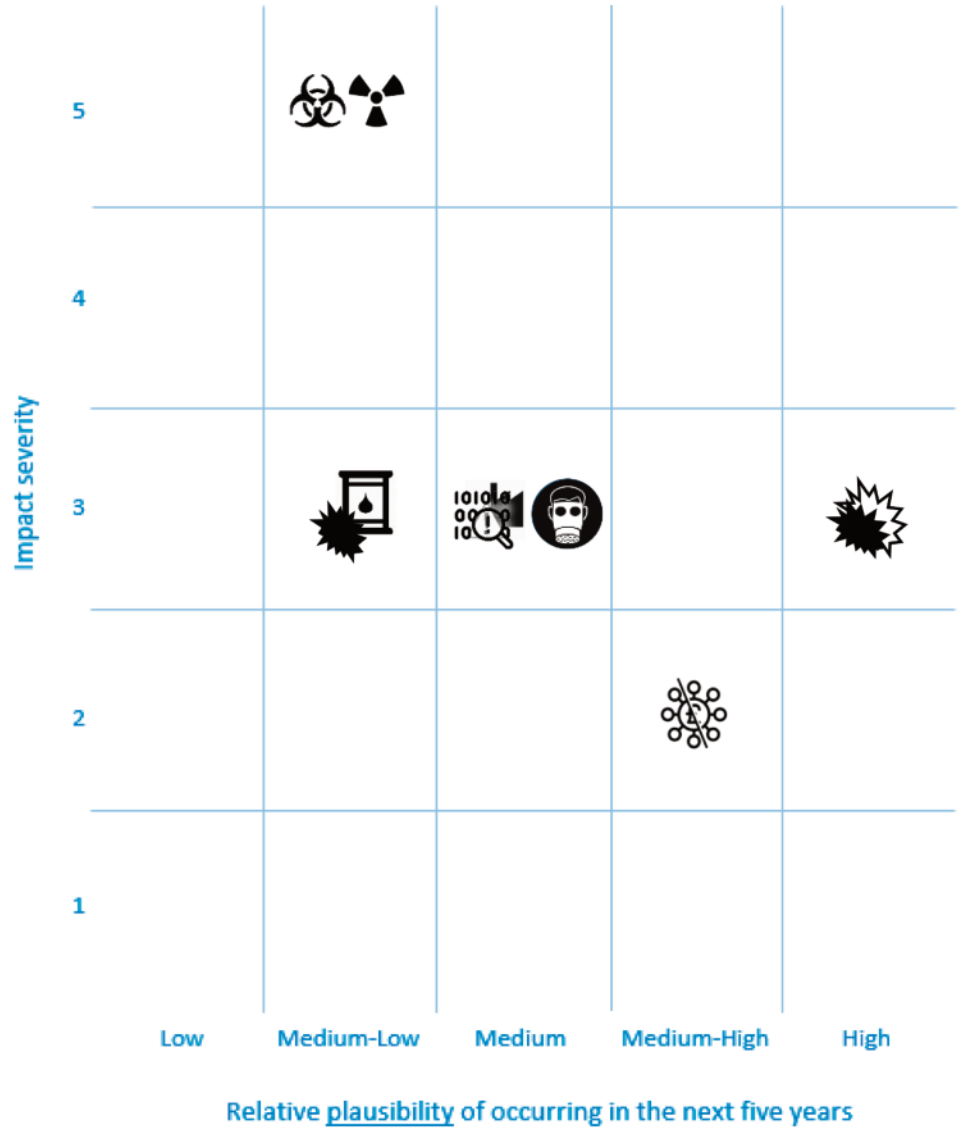
Source: 'National Risk Register for Civil Emergencies 2017'

Hazards, Diseases, accidents and societal risks





Malicious Attack Risks



KEY

Malicious attacks

- Attacks on crowded places
- Attacks on transport
- Attacks on infrastructure
- Cyber attacks on infrastructure
- Cyber attacks on services
- Larger-scale chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attacks
- Smaller-scale chemical, biological or radiological attacks

Scope of the CRR

The CRR does not assess every single risk. It assesses the risks that are most likely to occur and the impact these would have across Cheshire.

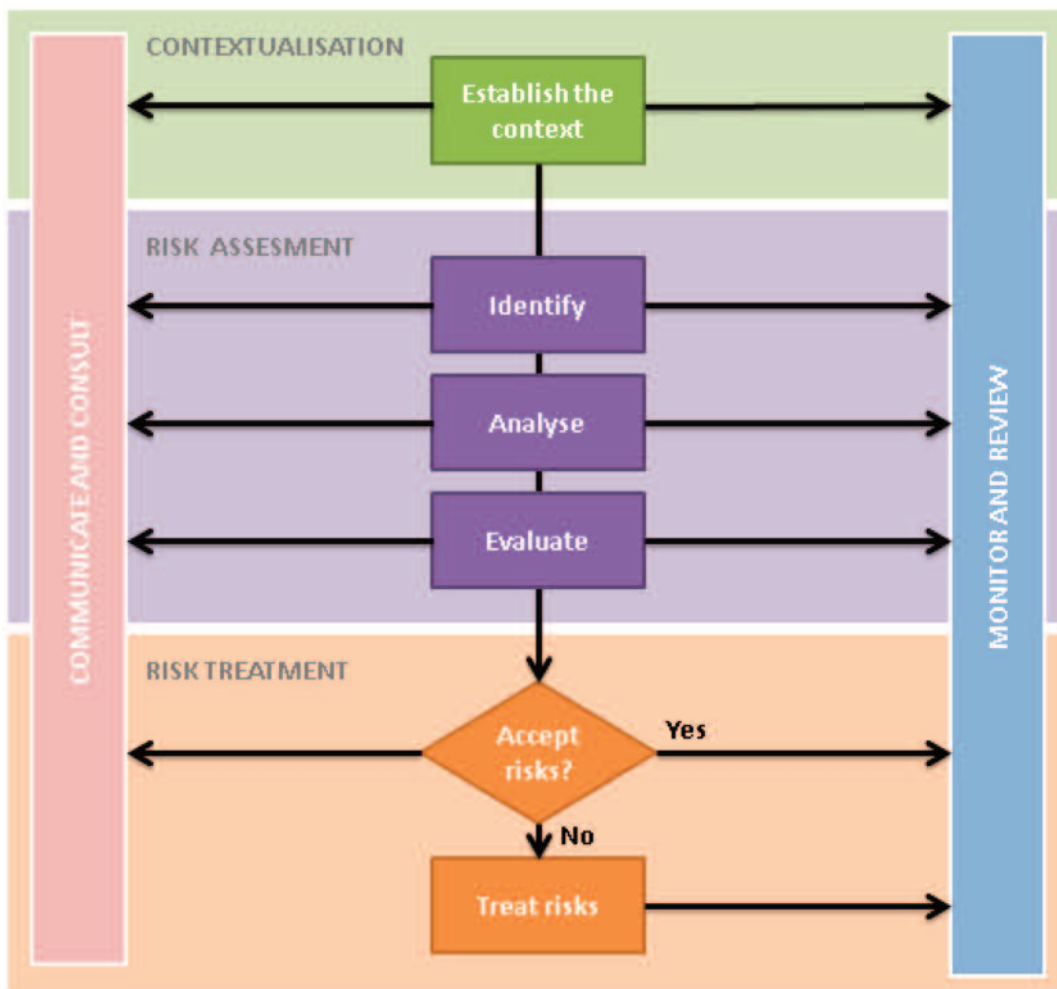
The CRR focuses on serious emergencies. An emergency is defined as:

- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom
- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom
- War or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom

Source: Civil Contingencies Act (2004)

Risk Management Process

The CRR is put together through a risk management process. This process follows a cycle, and is carried out by appropriate members of the CRF, relevant to the risk.



Contextualisation

The Cheshire CRR puts the national risks in a local context, by considering economic, geographic and demographic factors; has the event happened before, and what is in place to control and mitigate it? Even within Cheshire some risks are expected to have more impact than others e.g. Transport accidents.

Risk Assessment

Identify – Some risks are more obvious than others. There are several main categories; Natural events, human diseases, animal diseases, major accidents and malicious attacks.

Analyse – Each entry in the CRR has a lead organisation responsible for co-ordinating the risk assessment. This looks at the likelihood and the impact:

- **Likelihood** is the probability of an incident happening, related to the hazard, over the next 5 years
- **Impact** is a measure of the severity of the potential harm caused by the hazard, looking at health, economic, environmental and societal (Community) impacts.

Evaluate – After the lead organisation has completed the risk assessment it is agreed by the CRF Management Group, before being included in the CRR. Each risk is displayed on a graph to show the risks relative to each other.

Risk Treatment

A risk treatment plan is agreed by the CRF to prioritise ways of reducing risks, with the ultimate aim of reducing them to an acceptable level as far as possible.

Monitoring and Review

All risks in the CRR are reviewed continually and changes made as required. The CRR has a review date showing when the comprehensive review is carried out.



The Cheshire Profile

Some risks in Cheshire will be different compared to other parts of the Country.

To understand why some risks are more significant in Cheshire we need to look at the profile of the area, including social, economic and geographical factors. These factors also influence how we can prepare for and manage emergencies in the County.

Social

Cheshire as a whole encompasses four unitary authority areas; Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington. As a county, Cheshire covers an area of 2,343 square kilometres (905 square miles).



According to the 2011 census, the population of Cheshire is 1.028 million, with an average age of 40.4 years. In the decade between this census (2011) and the 2001 census, the population in Cheshire as a whole has increased by 4.39%. The North West had the third largest population of any English region and saw population growth of 4 per cent – larger than in the North East but still less than the population growth in other English regions and Wales.

The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over has risen. In contrast, the population aged from 0-24 years old as a percentage fell by 1% in the past decade. Taken in a national context it is important to note that in Cheshire, the growth in the over 65 population is not as pronounced as other areas of the country, particularly in relation to parts of East Anglia, Yorkshire and the coastal South East, as well as much of Wales and the South West of England.

As a whole, the vast majority of the population of Cheshire identify themselves as being White British (94%). However there are a number of other ethnic groups that make up the population of the area, notably: White other (21,321); White Irish (6,589); Asian/British Asian Indians (5,474) and Non-Chinese Asians (3,613).

As with a number of areas across the country, Cheshire has seen a net increase in migration over the past decade, although the number of migrants settling in the area has dropped since the onset of the financial crisis. Historically, Polish and other Eastern European nationalities have comprised the majority of migrants coming into Cheshire, in addition to communities from India and Ireland.

Cheshire East has a higher than average older population, with 19% of residents aged over 65 compared with 16.4% nationally.

Halton population continues to age with over 65s set to make up 33% of the population by 2021. The working population is expected to decline by 5% over the next ten years.



Environment

In West Cheshire there are major chemical, oil and nuclear risks as well as international manufacturing companies servicing the car industry.

There are also several Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this conflict between industry and nature means pre-planning and responding to incidents has to take into account the environmental impact.

Chester has become a banking capital for the North of England and the city is a significant national heritage site. The Cheshire Oaks retail centre and Chester Zoo are both national tourist attractions with thousands of visitors each year. Major towns include Northwich, Winsford, Frodsham and Ellesmere Port.

Cheshire East is mainly a rural area, with two major towns, Crewe and Macclesfield.

Halton is a largely urban area with two large towns, Runcorn and Widnes on either side of the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool. The Runcorn Widnes bridge and the Mersey Gateway link the two towns which share a common heritage. Widnes is regarded as the birthplace of the chemical industry and its development spread to Runcorn in the 19th Century.

Warrington lies at the Centre of the North West's communication network, with the M56, M6 and M62 motorways all intersecting here. Two significant waterways serve the urban area, the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal. The role as a crossing point of both river and canal is an essential part of the town's character.

Warrington has historically enjoyed high levels of employment, growth and prosperity driven by a strong manufacturing base and its key location in the region. Recently a shift from manufacturing to a service based economy has resulted in financial services being the largest sector providing employment in Warrington followed by distribution.

Infrastructure

The area has excellent national and international communications by rail from Crewe on the renewed West Coast line. Cheshire has a significant transport network comprising motorway, mainline railway and the shipping canal, all flown over by the approach of three airports.

There are several marinas within Cheshire, and waterways, including canal networks in Chester, Nantwich, Middlewich and other areas.

Although Cheshire does not have any main airports within its boundary, Manchester is on the border and Liverpool is also extremely close, both having flight paths over Cheshire.

Economy

Cheshire has one of the highest number of Chemical and Industrial sites that come under the COMAH regulations in the Country. These are mainly based around Ellesmere Port, Widnes and Runcorn, although there are several sites in other areas.

Chester City Centre, Chester Zoo and Cheshire Oaks are all large tourist areas in the County, but tourism is also prevalent in other areas of the county due to the large number of historical buildings and areas. The Canal Network throughout the County is also popular with tourists visiting on barges.

Chester is the main city within Cheshire and has a large heritage value, from the Rows, the amphitheatre and City Walls.

There are also student populations at Universities and Further Education colleges around the county, with specific student populous in Crewe and Chester.





Top Risks

Cheshire Resilience Forum has identified the following as the top risks within Cheshire:

- Pandemic flu
- Flooding
- Severe Weather
- Loss of Critical National Infrastructure
- Animal Diseases
- Environmental Incidents
- Industrial Incidents
- Transport Incidents
- Terrorist Threats

IMPORTANT NOTE: This does not mean they are more likely to happen in Cheshire.



Pandemic Flu

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declares a pandemic when:

- The virus hasn't been seen before and there is no natural immunity to it
- The virus is transferred between humans
- It spreads easily and survives in humans. Unlike a normal flu virus, it doesn't have a 'season' and can occur at any time of the year.
- It is likely to start in animals or birds and then make a 'jump' to humans
- It is different to seasonal 'flu' as it is a new virus with no immunity in the population and current vaccines will not help
- Few - if any - people will have any immunity to this new virus thus allowing it to spread easily and to cause more serious illness

History

Based on what has happened during previous pandemics, it is likely to occur in one or more waves, possibly weeks or months apart.

In the UK up to half the population could be directly affected. The last serious outbreak was in 1968 'Hong Kong Flu', 'Swine Flu' occurred in 2009 although it wasn't as virulent as other pandemics.

Each pandemic is different and, until the virus starts circulating, it is impossible to predict its full effects.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>Based on historical information, scientific evidence and modelling the following impacts are predicted for future pandemics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many millions of people around the world will become infected causing global disruption and a potential humanitarian crisis• Up to half the UK population may become infected and between 50,000 and 750,000 additional deaths may be caused during the pandemic• Health care and local authority social care systems become overloaded• Normal life is likely to face widespread disruption, particularly due to staff shortages affecting the provision of essential services including production and transport	<p>The consequences could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable people exposed to lower levels of care• Longer and more frequent disruption to essential services• Reduced levels of emergency services cover• Disruptions to businesses and organisations through staff shortages and supply chain interruptions• Impacts on the national and local economy

What are we doing?

The UK is well prepared for pandemic flu. Robust plans are in place to protect the public.

We have run through the scenario of a Pandemic in several 'table top' exercises both nationally and locally. These exercises have included health and social care providers and other partners, they are designed to test the level of readiness for a pandemic. Public Health

England (PHE) have run a number of briefing sessions across Cheshire so partners are clear as to what is expected of them. In addition individual organisations have their own business continuity plans in place to cope in times of staff shortage.



What can you do?

Influenza is much more serious than a cold and can be potentially life threatening to people with underlying chronic health care problems and the frail.

If you have flu:

- Identify a 'Flu Friend' – somebody who would collect your medication, food and other supplies allowing you to be isolated from the public
- Keep personal stocks of "over the counter" cold and flu medication to help relieve your symptoms
- Know the arrangements for your child's school
- Look out for advice and guidance from the NHS

To help minimise spread

Flu germs can live on some surfaces for hours. If you have flu, you can protect others by carrying tissues with you and using them to catch your coughs and sneezes. Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel. This is the best way to help slow the spread of flu.



Flooding

As the numerous events suffered over the last several years have shown, flooding can take different forms, and at its most serious can affect many different aspects of our daily lives. Over the coming years, rising temperatures and sea levels, and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events are likely to raise the risk of flooding in the UK.

Cheshire is at risk from tidal/coastal, river and surface water flooding. The River Dane and the River Bollin are rapid response catchments, these areas are expected to flood rapidly in response to extreme rainfall and there may be little or no warning due to the sudden onset of flooding.



History

During Christmas 2015 a number of properties were affected by flooding from rivers and the Manchester ship canal in Lymm, Thelwall and Woolston. Also in December 2015 Farndon (a rural community near Chester) was isolated as flooding from the River Dee caused issues with access.

December 2013 saw some Flooding in Parkgate, Chester and Warrington, and in the summer of 2012 areas of Warrington suffered from both surface water and river flooding. In 1946, 2000 and 2012 Northwich was affected by flooding from the rivers Weaver and Dane

In 1987 and 1998 Congleton was affected by flooding of the River Dane which affected a significant proportion of commercial properties in the town centre and some residential properties.

Risk Impacts

The predicted impacts could include:

- Risk to life (people and animals)
- Damage to property, business, agricultural land, roads, structures and infrastructure
- Pollution and contamination of local environments
- Long-term damage to tourism, businesses and agriculture

Consequences

The consequences could include:

- Disruption to utilities
- Flooding of properties
- Evacuation of residents
- Provision of accommodation for those whose homes are flooded
- Unrecoverable damage to businesses
- Long-term psychological and health impacts
- Long term restoration and recovery issues for homes and businesses

What are we doing?

- Identification of where the floodwater could go and who is at risk
- Production of Multi-agency plans to enable us to work together to minimise the impact of flooding
- Strategic area planning to protect the areas at risk
- Provision of guidance for the public about protecting properties from flooding
- Development of ways and means of alerting the public as early as possible when there is a significant flood risk
- Continuing to invest in maintaining and improving river defences in our high risk areas
- Working directly with communities at risk, multi-agency working to prepare for flooding

What can you do?

- Find out if your property is within a flood risk area
- Plan where you will go if you have to evacuate, how you will get there and what you will need to take with you e.g Medication, insurance documents
- Know what to do to protect your property during a flood and have adequate insurance
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or may be able to provide assistance to you, in case of evacuation
- Have supplies in your home that will enable you to cope for up to 3 days should you be unable to evacuate
- Sign up to the Flood Warning Service if you are in a flood risk area
- Where possible, move valuable/irreplaceable items to upper floors during times of flood risk

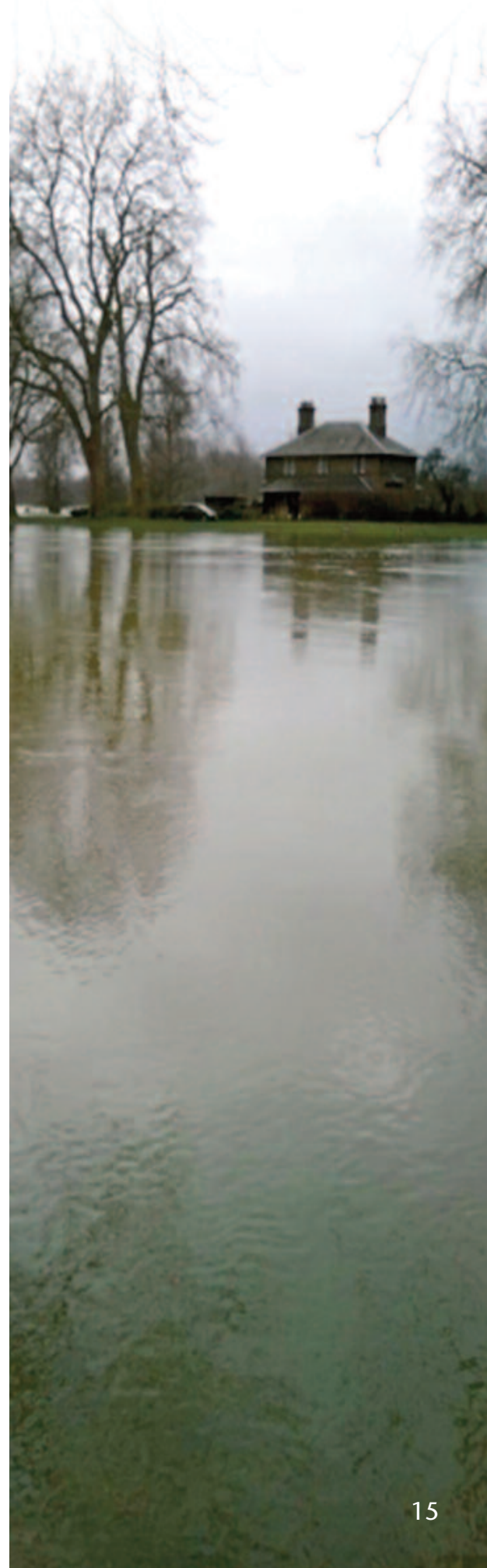
Flood Warning Service

Flood Warning Service is a free service that gives advance warning of flooding by telephone, text and mobile. To register call floodline on 0345 9881188 24hr 7 days a week.

Links for further information:

Before, during and after a flood

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood>



Severe Weather

The United Kingdom, despite its relatively temperate climate, nevertheless experiences severe weather capable of causing disruption to normal life and, on rare occasions, presenting danger to life itself.

The majority of severe weather events occur within the colder half of the year (October to March), when Atlantic storm systems are at their most frequent and strongest, capable of delivering disruptive rain and wind, depending upon their track. Disruption of the prevailing Atlantic weather patterns during winter is often the cue for cold air outbreaks from the north or east with their attendant snow/ice risk. Occasionally in a severe winter these interludes can prove very persistent.

The warmer half of the year sees the threat from severe weather shift more towards that from surface water flooding resulting from intense thunderstorms. High temperatures can also cause significant disruption to health and transport.

As climate change proceeds, so we are likely to see an increasing threat from extreme weather events, be it disruptive rainfall/wind during the winter, or an increased frequency of intense rainfall events in the summer.



History

The position of Cheshire, downwind from the Welsh mountains, provides it with a measure of shelter from excessive winter rainfall (as clearly evidenced in December 2015). However, it is as much at risk as anywhere within the Northwest of England to surface water flooding, particularly of the summer storm variety, as was the case several times in June 2016.

Despite its relatively low altitude, its exposure to winds from between west and northwest means that it can on occasion receive the full force of severe winter gales such as those which affected much of central and northern England on 18th January 2007. When combined with high astronomical tides this can result in significant coastal flooding. The high ground of the south Pennines in the eastern end of the county is often affected by disruptive snowfall during colder spells in winter.

Risk Impacts

The predicted impacts could include:

Storms and gales:

- Widespread travel disruption (road, rail, air, sea)
- Numerous trees brought down with associated risk to vehicles/pedestrians.
- Power outages resulting from damage to infrastructure
- Structural damage to buildings and property
- Danger to life from windborne objects

Low temperatures and heavy snow:

- Widespread travel disruption (road, rail and air) with higher level routes particularly affected.
- Risk of remote/high lying rural communities being cut off for days.
- Power outages.
- Increase in hospital admissions due to slips/falls on frozen surfaces.

Heatwaves:

- Increase in hospital admissions for heat-related causes including exhaustion, dehydration, sunstroke, especially amongst the very young and the elderly.
- Disruption to transport due to the effects of high temperatures on rails, tarmac.

Consequences

The primary consequences of severe weather are the disruption it causes to the various forms of transport and power supplies, together with a surge in demand for the NHS. One of the key knock-on consequences of low temperatures/snow is the widespread closure of schools, together with the struggle to maintain public services.





What are we doing?

We have pre-prepared plans for dealing with all forms of severe weather. Some are site-specific such as the strong wind plan developed with Highways England for the Thelwall Viaduct stretch of the M6. All emergency responders across the county receive severe weather warnings and extreme temperature alerts from the Met Office, along with the very latest expert weather guidance from the Met Office's advisor based in the Northwest. We will call multi-agency teleconferences, chaired by the Police, to plan our joint response to particularly severe weather events. Both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Council's highways departments receive detailed forecasts of snow, ice and frost throughout the winter season to help coordinate its gritting program and help keep the county's traffic moving.

What can you do?

Stay 'weatherwise' by keeping up to date with the latest weather forecast, either via the Met Office's app on your smartphone, via the Met Office's website www.metoffice.gov.uk or through the broadcast media.

When heavy rain is forecast and flooding is possible checkout the latest rainfall situation via the radar facility on the Met Office website:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/observation/map/gcmyw5w26#?map=Rainfall&ftime=1480474800&zoom=8&lon=-2.89&lat=53.19>

Pay particular attention to any severe weather warnings issued for Cheshire and plan your journeys with the weather in mind, allowing extra time if necessary.

For tips on dealing with severe weather browse the series of infographics produced by the Met Office for the public at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/guide/weather/severe-weather-advice>

Loss of Critical National Infrastructure

Critical Infrastructure is the name given to all the different essential services which we rely on as part of a modern society and economy. The UK's critical infrastructure is made up of electricity, water, gas, oil/fuel, transport, telecoms, food, health and financial services.

Many parts of the infrastructure network are dependant on one another e.g. electricity is required at water pumping stations, telecoms and electricity are required to allow cash machines and cash registers to function correctly.

Those services which could directly or indirectly impact upon other elements of the infrastructure network are detailed below:

Wide-scale loss of electricity or gas would have a direct or indirect impact on all other infrastructure sectors. In the event of a major gas or electricity supply emergency, both industry and government will have significant roles to play in managing the incident and its consequences.

The gas and electricity companies are responsible for the practical and operational management of the incident. These companies have well established plans and procedures in place to respond to incidents, which can range from management of a local incident to a national level disruption.

Wide-scale telecoms disruption would have a direct or indirect impact on all other infrastructure sectors. Individuals and businesses are increasingly dependant on the telecoms network either for mobile and fixed line telephony or provision on the internet.

Water disruptions include burst water mains, supply disruption and minor or major contamination. Dependent on the severity of the incident a multi-agency emergency may be declared to ensure that people's basic water needs are met.

There could be a significant impact on health and food provision, as well as an impact on the capabilities of the Fire and Rescue Service.

There are no realistic scenarios within the UK which would lead to a shortage of food supplies. However, if a large area of Cheshire's agricultural land or livestock, was affected by an incident, it would affect the economy of the county as well as having the potential to impact national food prices.



Because of our increasing reliance on utilities such as electricity, water and gas for so many aspects of our lives, even localised losses can have a significant impact on those affected.

Rural areas are often the last to be reconnected when there is a disruption to utilities such as gas, water and electricity. During a wide scale incident people who live in more rural areas of Cheshire may be affected for longer than those in town/city locations.

The lead agency in Cheshire for infrastructure failures will vary depending on the nature of the emergency and its impacts.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>The predicted impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People exposed to poor sanitation and lack of drinking water• Homes without heating and limited ability to heat food and water• Limited ability to keep food cold or frozen• No ability to get fuel from filling stations• People unable to get cash from cash machines or make card purchases• Limited telecommunications (including mobile phones).	<p>The consequences of a wide-scale infrastructure incident could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disruption to essential services and activities• Endangerment to vulnerable people• Financial impact on businesses• Civil unrest• Increased demand on emergency services• Travel disruption• Disruption to businesses and normal home life.

What are we doing?

- Working with the utility companies to manage supply interruptions
- Reviewing multi-agency plans to manage long term utility outages
- Identifying vulnerable people who will need special treatment in the event of a utilities outage

What can you do?

- Know where the isolation points are for your utilities. In the case of gas and water emergencies. It may be necessary to shut off the supply in a premise in the affected area.
- Keep an emergency kit at home containing items such as a (wind-up) torch, and supplies of tinned food and drinking water
- If water is an essential part of your business consider a business continuity plan for loss of supply

Matches and Candles in the home are useful if you lose electricity, but a torch and batteries or a wind up torch are much safer when handling objects in the dark.

- Outages may come with forewarning. If this is the case consider how you can prepare, eg, don't use your washing machine or dishwasher.
- Be on alert for bogus callers posing as utility company workers

Animal Diseases

Animal diseases which present the most concern are those which are highly contagious, cause high fatality rates amongst livestock or have the possibility of infecting humans.

Within the multi-agency planning work the following diseases are considered: Avian Influenza, Bluetongue, Classical Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, Newcastle Disease, Rabies and West Nile Virus.

Any animal disease within Cheshire would have a huge impact on the agricultural economy as well as the overall economy of the county.

The Cheshire area has a vibrant agricultural economy with large numbers of dairy, beef and poultry farms making significant contributions to both the local and national economy.

History

There have been a number of significant animal disease outbreaks in the United Kingdom. Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), Bluetongue and Foot and Mouth Disease are the most notable recent examples.

The Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2000 was one of the key factors, which led to the introduction of the Civil Contingencies Act in 2004, due to its huge impact on the UK economy.



Risk Impacts

The predicted impacts could include:

- Damage to local agricultural economy.
- Mass cull/ disposal of animal carcasses.
- Loss of livelihood for farmers and farm workers.
- Health risks to farm workers.

Consequences

The consequences could include:

- Long-term psychological health impacts experienced by farmers.
- Increased food costs to consumers.
- Knock-on effect on tourism and other service industries (e.g. catering).
- Unrecoverable damage to businesses.



What are we doing?

- Updating and testing multi-agency plans for managing animal disease outbreaks
- Continuing to raise awareness amongst responder agency staff about animal diseases and how to respond to an outbreak

What can you do?

- Register any livestock (including poultry) which you own with Defra
- If an outbreak is declared then follow any guidance from the government to protect your livestock and limit the spread
- Vaccinate your livestock where possible
- Early notification of diseases is vital

Further information is available through the 'Animal and Plant Health Agency':
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>



Environmental Incidents

Environmental Incidents may impact on air, land and water.

Water – Pollution incidents can impact surface waters (inland and coastal waters) and groundwater. They can be caused by chemical spillage including fuel oils or release of a large quantity of untreated sewage.

Land – Former industrial or derelict land can pose serious risks to people using or visiting the sites and/or the environment. The public should avoid using former industrial or derelict land for recreational use. Dangers from these site can be seen and unseen meaning unaware members of the public could be putting themselves in danger.



Unmaintained sites can degrade to a point where uncontrolled emissions to the environment begin occurring and if left unchecked can cause serious harm to ecosystems, biodiversity and different water resources (rivers, groundwaters, lake and meres).

Air – Air pollution includes fires, explosions and chemical/fuel releases. Smells may also be caused by waste spreading, accidental or deliberate burning of manure or materials such as asbestos or tyres.

Cheshire is a county with a high density of chemical sites many situated alongside significant water courses. The Rivers Mersey and Dee and their many tributaries flow through the county as does the Manchester Ship Canal, Trent and Mersey Canal, Bridgewater and Shropshire Union Canal. The River Dee near Chester and the Shropshire Union /Llangollen Canal at Hurleston are both used to supply drinking water after purification.

Cheshire has one of the largest motorway networks in the country and we regularly deal with minor spillages of fuel and chemicals as a result of collisions. Occasionally there are larger spills. The emergency services, Environment Agency, Highways England and landowners all work together to minimise the impact of such incidents.

Cheshire has around 50 Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites, one of the highest in the country. COMAH regulations apply to businesses that have the potential to cause major accidents because they manufacture, store or use large quantities of dangerous substances such as oil products, natural gas, chemicals or explosives. Although COMAH off site plans are regularly exercised, activation for real is extremely rare. If you live nearby you will receive advice directly from the site Operator.

Cheshire is also one of the biggest dairy farming counties in the country and has the potential for silage and slurry related incidents.

History

Over the last 5 years, there have been two incidents classified by the Environment Agency as a Major pollution of controlled waters in Cheshire. In 2011 there was a serious eel kill due to a chemical spillage affecting Rivacre Brook Ellesmere Port. In 2012 there was a large fish kill on the River Weaver around Winsford flash, no specific cause for the incident was identified, and it was thought to be weather related. There were also 2 significant oil pollution incidents in 2012, in both cases the polluter was identified and required to pay clean up costs.. One affected a tributary of the River Dee and the other the Manchester Ship Canal.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>The predicted impacts could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution of sea water or water courses • Environmental pollution • Damage to Sites of specific scientific interest (SSSI) • Damage to wildlife and the environment • Health risk to residents and visitors • Cancellation of sport and leisure events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic impact on tourism and local community • Closure of drinking water abstraction point(s) to protect public supply • Amenity issues including odour, noise and pests • Economic and reputational Damage to local businesses

What are we doing?

Environmental permits are in place to ensure business and domestic potential sources of pollution are controlled and the risk of accidents minimised. Enforcement Activities are undertaken against organisations and individuals who breach permit conditions or operate illegally.

Plans are in place for high risk sites and all responders regularly train and exercise together and as individual organisations.

COMAH Regulations aim to ensure that businesses take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences of any major accidents which do occur.

Environmental monitoring is also undertaken which assists in the early identification of any problems, for example contamination of the River Dee. Site visits are undertaken on a risk basis.

What can you do?

To report an Environmental incident, please call the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

Follow advice given by the Emergency Services and the Environment Agency during an Incident.

Industrial Incidents



Industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential to cause accidents which can have huge consequences. Some of these accidents may have serious impacts on individuals who work at the site or live within the area. These accidents can also have a serious impact on the Environment.

COMAH is regulated in Cheshire by the COMAH Competent Authority, which is a partnership between HSE and the Environment Agency. They aim to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit the consequences to people and the environment of any incidents that do occur, and is applicable to any organisation or site which stores, handles or processes large quantities of industrial chemicals of a hazardous nature.

Cheshire has a total of 27 Upper Tier COMAH Sites. The county has the second largest group of COMAH sites in the UK. Cheshire also has 1 nuclear site. Cheshire has a number of Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP) which run through the area, which are owned by MAHP Operators.

History

The first and largest UK industrial explosion occurred at the Buncefield site, Sunday, 11th December 2005. Further explosions followed at the site, which eventually overwhelmed 20 large storage tanks. The vapour cloud explosion was heard up to 125 miles (200 km) away. The explosion measured '2.4 on the Richter Scale.' Many people felt the shockwave after the initial explosion. It was reported that people were woken in South London and as far west as Wokingham, which is approximately 28 miles from the site. There were reports the explosion was heard in Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

More than 150 firefighters tackled the blaze for a number of days. Following the explosion and fires at the site, a 'smoke cloud' drifted towards Reading and Swindon, which was also seen in the South East of England. Evacuations and school closures were put in place. There was also transportation and business disruptions, within the community. To this day, the community is still in recovery.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>The predicted impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endangerment to life.• Damage to property and the local area.• Pollution to the local environment and water causes.	<p>The predicted consequences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact to UK oil and gas supplies.• Economic impact through damage to local business.• Contamination of land.• Long-term restoration and recovery of the local area.

What are we doing?

As part of industrial planning, Cheshire has an established Industrial Issues Group, which has an agreed terms of reference, as part of the CRF. This group aims to ensure resilience is in place against these industrial risks.

This 'Resilience' ensures:

- All sites / operators have an emergency plan in place
- All emergency plans are exercised and tested in line with the regulations they are governed by

What can you do?

General advice on what local people and businesses can do in the event of an industrial incident, can be found within numerous resources:

- Public Information Zone Safety Letter / Card
- Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Portal
- Local Authority websites
- Follow advice given out during an incident

More information regarding the regulations which govern these risks, can be found via:

Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulation 2015
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/index.htm/pubns/books/l1111.htm>

Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPiR) 2001
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/reppir.htm>

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996 Plans
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pipelines/emergencyplanpipe.pdf>

Transport Incidents

Just like our dependencies on basic utilities, almost all of us will rely on a form of transport either to get to and from work, or to receive essential services. The disruptive consequences of a transport emergency are far-reaching and can further endanger life. Transport emergencies can be the result of accidents but also disruption caused by severe weather such as snow and floods. The situation can be further complicated by extremes of temperature if people are trapped in their vehicles for long periods of time.

Aviation is considered the safest form of transport, and the UK is a world leader in aviation safety, but incidents still occur and can have severe consequences. The terrorist threat has increased the risk in recent years.

The county of Cheshire has wide scale rail network ranging from the West Coast Mainline between London and Scotland to other lines serving Liverpool, Manchester and North Wales. There are major rail hubs at Chester, Crewe, Warrington and Wilmslow with numerous Passenger Train Operating Companies and Freight Operating Companies operating within the County. There are also plans in the future for a link to Crewe from HS2.

Due to England's motorways being heavily trafficked with various fast moving vehicles road traffic collisions have the potential to occur at any time.

The most common risk is the occurrence of a road traffic collision. In most instances road traffic collisions are minor injury or damage only and can be routinely dealt with by Highways England or Cheshire Police resulting in minimal disruptions to road users. Occasionally more serious traffic collisions occur resulting in potential long delays to motorists.

Cheshire has some of the most diverse sections of motorway in the country from the high structures of Thelwall Viaduct and Weaver Viaduct to the complex junctions of Croft and Lymm interchanges. The M6 provides one of the main arterial routes for travelling north and south through England, dissecting the Cheshire countryside. Other significant roads include the M56, M62, M53, A55 and A556.



As of January 2016 the construction of Cheshire's first smart motorway commenced. The 20 mile stretch between junctions 16 and 19 will be upgraded using the latest technology to improve safety and journey times through the region. Works are expected to be completed March 2018.

Cheshire does not have a significant coastline as it is located either side of the Wirral peninsula between the Merseyside and Flintshire coasts, (bounded by the River Mersey Estuary and River Dee Estuary).

Within Cheshire, there are two main areas for passenger cruise tour vessels - Manchester Ship Canal and River Dee in Chester although, in addition, there are a number of canal cruise tours on a number of sections of the inland waterways in Cheshire.

History

There have been no passenger aircraft accidents in Cheshire in recent years though a pilot died in August 2015 at the Oulton Park Car Fest when his plane crashed during a display. In August 2012 two died when a light aircraft crashed on farmland shortly after take-off from Hawarden.

The projection for 2018 is 25 million passengers will use Manchester Airport alone. A further 5 million will use Liverpool John Lennon Airport resulting, at peak periods, in nearly 800 flights a day passing over Cheshire. Airbus at Hawarden is increasing the size of their aircraft and is working towards 1000 aircraft movements a year.

In the last twenty years we have experienced two major rail incidents. The first, on the West Coast Mainline at Winsford on 23rd June 1999, involving an express passenger train running into the rear of a local empty passenger train resulted in 31 injuries. The second, at North Rode on 18th December 2008, involving a 4x4 vehicle being struck by two passenger trains resulting in the driver of one of the trains being injured.

There have been a number of Road Traffic Collisions on the motorways in Cheshire over the last few years, most notably a tanker fire on the M56 in September 2015, and a chemical spill in September 2017.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>The predicted impacts could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disruption to normal travel capabilities• Death or injury to people• People stranded in vehicles potentially in extreme weather conditions• Environmental impacts if goods are spilled into local environment• Possible damage to buildings or infrastructure	<p>The consequences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact on local businesses through delayed or failed deliveries• Delays in emergency services reaching people.

What are we doing?

- Continued work with national transport companies to plan for dealing with accidents
- Cheshire Police, Highways England and North West Motorways Policing Group work together to keep major routes accessible and reduce congestion where possible
- Regular exercising involving relevant responding agencies
- British Transport Police, Network Rail, Train/Freight Operating Companies are continually reviewing their plans for major incidents on the rail infrastructure alongside Police, Fire, Ambulance and Local Authorities

What can you do?

- Have an emergency kit in your car or basic items when you travel. You may not be directly involved in an accident but the transport disruption could last for hours.
- When driving, abide by the rules of the road, adhere to speed limits and drive safely
- Ensure your vehicle is kept in a roadworthy and safe condition
- Avoid non-essential journeys during times of severe weather



Terrorist Threats

We continue to encourage the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behavior which may be terrorist-related. Members of the public who have any information about unusual activity or behavior should contact the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321. In the event of an immediate threat, always dial 999.

There are 5 levels of threat:

- **Low** - an attack is unlikely
- **Moderate** - an attack is possible but unlikely
- **Substantial** - an attack is a strong possibility
- **Severe** - an attack is highly likely
- **Critical** - an attack is expected imminently



The level is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and the Security Service (MI5). Threat levels don't have an expiry date. They can change at any time as different information becomes available to security agents.

The UK faces a real threat from terrorism and crowded places remain an attractive target. There are a number of iconic targets within the county which could hold significance to a terrorist.

The likelihood of an attack in Cheshire by a lone individual is **low**, however as recent incidents have highlighted we should be alert to the potential.

Risk Impacts	Consequences
<p>The predicted impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangerment to life. • Damage to property and the local area. • Community cohesion 	<p>The predicted consequences include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community tensions • Heightened sense of fear • Financial impact

What are we doing?

Agencies in Cheshire are working to support central government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST).

"CONTEST" aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. CONTEST deals with all forms of terrorism and continues to be based around four strands:

- **Pursue:** the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks
- **Prevent:** work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect:** improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible

What can you do?



Terrorists and violent extremists can and do exploit the internet for their own means.

This represents a serious risk to those who are vulnerable and use the internet.

If you feel that content you have seen or heard about online is unacceptable then you can report your concerns at <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Terrorist related material could include:

- articles, images, speeches or videos that promote terrorism
- content encouraging people to commit acts of terrorism
- websites made by terrorist organisations
- videos of terrorist attacks

Your report will be treated anonymously and takes a few minutes to complete.

Once you have submitted your report, it will be passed on to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU).

Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Neil Basu says: "The chances of ever being caught up in an attack are very small, but if it did happen you would not be thinking straight. You need a simple message that will quickly come to you - Run, Hide, Tell."

- **RUN** to a place of safety
- **HIDE** It's better to hide than to confront
- **TELL** the police by calling 999



More information regarding the regulations which govern these risks, can be found via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

Contextualisation of the national risk information

Once we consider the national risks against the local profile of Cheshire we can see where problems could exist and which need to be overcome.

Examples of this are listed below:

Given any emergency we must identify those people in the affected area who are most vulnerable.

There are many different factors that can make a person vulnerable in an emergency situation, all of these factors must be considered and the different organisations which support them identified.

When evacuating people from their homes in an emergency we must carefully manage mobility and health issues.

In some areas of Cheshire there are large amounts of the population who are retirement age and/or identify themselves as having a limiting long-term illness.

In the event of an incident which requires evacuating people we must find temporary shelter for all affected residents.

All the local authorities within Cheshire have plans to ensure that temporary shelter can be set up, and these plans are exercised and used regularly.

In the event of large scale flooding in high risk areas we need to be able to ensure accountability and safety of all residents.

Response plans are in place between agencies to ensure the safety of residents in these areas. A special plan is being produced for Farndon to ensure that those with properties in this area can be contacted and accounted for in the case of flooding.

We must overcome potential barriers when getting emergency communications to tourists and residents for whom English is not their first language.

There are several communities in Cheshire where English is not the first language, and we need to ensure that messages and advice are equally available to these communities. Cheshire also has some high tourist areas e.g Chester.

We must provide assistance to people travelling through the County on the roads or rail networks if they are involved in an emergency.

The road infrastructure is heavily used and is put under considerable stress whenever there is disruption to it. Multi-agency plans are in place and are regularly reviewed and tested post incident. With the large amounts of Motorways in Cheshire we work regularly with Highways England and the North West Motorways Policing Group to reduce disruption.

We must have the capability to provide continuous response for larger scale and longer-term emergencies.

We have arrangements in place to receive and provide mutual aid within the region and nationally. This was tested during the recent Bosley Mill Incident, where emergency services were on site for over a month, and the investigation and recovery elements are still ongoing.

Preparedness




'Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count'.

What can you do to be better prepared in your home?

Some emergencies require evacuation, some require staying put – are you ready?

In the case of most major emergencies, the simple advice is to go inside, stay inside, and tune into local radio, and follow social media.

We use local radio to broadcast emergency warnings and information as it is one of the most accessible means of communication. It can also be received in homes, businesses and cars.

-  **GO IN** to a safe building.
-  **STAY IN** until you are advised to do otherwise.
-  **TUNE IN** to local TV or radio for more information.

Radio is also very reliable as it can still broadcast and be received during a power cut. We are also aware of the increasing use of social media, and therefore the different platforms will be utilised to share safety advice and messages too. You can follow the different agencies on Twitter and Facebook for regular updates, warnings and emergency information.

With most incidents the safest place to be is indoors, and with correct preparation you should be able to stay there safely for some time (remember in the case of a fire in a building you are in – get out, stay out get the Fire Service out).

The CRF organisations work together with the local radio stations and other media outlets to make sure that they can give out accurate and up-to-date information to keep people fully informed on what to do in an emergency.



Planning for an emergency

To prepare for an emergency, you should take time to find out:

- Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies in your home
- The emergency procedures for your children at school
- The emergency procedures at your workplace
- How your family will stay in contact in the event of an emergency
- If any elderly or vulnerable neighbours might need your help
- How to tune in to your local radio station
- Follow your local emergency services, and other organisations on Social Media



At home in an emergency

If you are at home and an emergency happens, try to gather together for an Emergency Grab Bag:

Consider including the following items:

- Copy of your Household Emergency Life-Saving Plan*
- First aid kit and medication
- Copies of important family documents in a waterproof bag
- Prescription medication
- Cash and Credit Cards
- Car Keys
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies
- Mobile phone and charger
- Infant supplies
- Spare clothes
- A battery torch with spare batteries or a wind up torch
- A battery radio with spare batteries or wind up radio
- Bottled water and emergency food, enough for three days
- Childcare supplies or other special care items
- Extra set of house and car keys

**The Household Emergency Life-Saving Plan is a template that will help you and your family prepare for an emergency. The Plan will let you record potential dangers in and around your home and put into place ways of dealing with them. The template can be found at <http://cheshireresilience.org.uk/be-prepared/how-to-prepare-2/in-emergencies/>*

Also check on neighbours and vulnerable people in your community where it is safe to do so.

Leaving your home in an emergency

In certain situations, you may be asked to leave your home by the emergency services. If this happens, leave as quickly and calmly as possible.

If you have time, are requested to, and it is safe to do so:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies
- Unplug appliances and lock all windows and doors
- Take the items listed previously
- If you leave by car take bottled water and blankets
- Take your pets (in suitable carriers on a lead)
- Tune into local radio for emergency advice and instructions
- Inform emergency services of where you have gone and how you can be contacted

Returning home after an emergency

Listen to advice from the Emergency Services or Local Authority about any specific actions which you must follow when it is safe to return home.

Be prepared when travelling

There may be occasions when you become stuck in traffic and unable to leave a roadway or your vehicle.

Keep these items in your vehicle from the start of winter, you never know when you might need them.

These include:

- An ice scraper and de-icer
- A torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas
- Sunglasses (the low winter sun and glare off snow can be dazzling)



If you are travelling with children consider, in advance, how you will keep them entertained if you are involved in traffic disruption. Take extra games, snacks, drinks, etc.

Ensure whenever you travel that you take medications with you in case you become stuck on a roadway or in your vehicles.

Community Resilience



How can your local community be prepared? Make a call, make a plan.

Wide-scale emergencies can and do happen. In the last 7 years the UK has seen events such as heavy snow, flooding, terrorist attacks, and utilities failure and fuel shortages. In Cheshire in the last few years we have had a major industrial explosion, flooding, and motorway closures due to serious incidents.

The lessons learnt from the 2007 floods showed that those communities which were prepared for emergency events were better equipped to deal with the impacts. This means that the individuals within those communities were able to cope without fear or panic.

What is a community emergency and flood plan?

A community emergency and flood plan provides advice and guidance to a local community (this may be the parish council, neighbourhood watch area, or even a single street) both in advance of and during any significant emergency.

Cheshire Resilience Forum, including the Local Authorities in Cheshire are encouraging and assisting parishes to develop community emergency and flood plans in order to better prepare for the realistic risks which they face.

Why have a community emergency and flood plan?

The purpose of community resilience is to encourage people to plan and be prepared to put into place a self-help response within a community which is affected by an emergency. Experience has shown that sometime due to the scale and/or nature of the emergency, the normal response provided by the emergency services and local authorities can be delayed. On these occasions anything which the local community can do to support each other will help them to deal with the emergency more effectively.

How to get started

Guidance and assistance is available through Cheshire Resilience Forum and your Local Authority team.

Community resilience measures can be as little as just having a designated point of contact within your community, who can receive warnings and messages from emergency services and local authorities.

The plan can grow over time to include areas such as:

- A parish emergency planning team
- Community buildings which can be used as emergency evacuation facilities
- Knowledge of skills and expertise within the community
- Knowledge of special equipment or vehicles within the community
- Identification of vulnerable premises and people within the local area
- Specific actions based on specific risks

How can your business be prepared?

If you own or are responsible for a business or organisation, have you considered the impacts from external emergencies?

Major emergencies can happen quickly and without warning. Statistics show that almost one in five businesses will be hit by a major disruption every year. Consequences can result in loss of customers, loss of revenue and even collapse of business.

How would your organisation cope with:

- A sudden and significant reduction in staff?
- Denial of access to a site or geographical area?
- Unexpected loss of mains electricity?
- A temporary disruption to gas supplies?
- A disruption to the supply of mains water and sewerage?
- Significant disruption to transport?
- Disruption to the availability of oil and fuel?
- A loss of telecommunications?
- A loss of, disruption to your computer systems?
- A disruption that affects your key suppliers or partners?



Does your organisation have adequate business continuity measures in place?

What is Business Continuity Management?

Business Continuity Management can be defined as the management of activities and processes providing a framework for protecting your business in the event of an emergency.

A business continuity plan sets clear roles and responsibilities. Setting out what parts of the organisation's activities and resources is essential in helping your business survive in an emergency.

Why is Business Continuity Management important?

Preparedness is the key. Business Continuity Planning is a way to ensure that your organisation has a quick and effective return to "business as usual" in the event of a major emergency. Business Continuity Management also enables businesses/services to identify those that are essential and must be provided.

Planning in advance can protect you and your business. It is essential that businesses ask themselves if they have effective business continuity plans in place.

- Expecting the unexpected
- Business Continuity Institute

5 steps to effective Business Continuity

1. Understand your business
 - a. What parts of the business are critical and what priority would you allocate to restoring functions if they fail
2. Risk Assessment
 - a. What risks does your business face (internal and external)?
 - b. Consider these risks within your business risk assessment. What can you put in place to reduce the likelihood of the risks and/or the impact of them?
3. Consider the resource needs of each of your business functions
 - a. People
 - b. Premises
 - c. Equipment
 - d. Information
 - e. Communications
 - f. External suppliers/contractors
4. Document information in a user-friendly format about your businesses' critical functions and resources required including alternatives/back ups for each
 - a. This will assist you during and after an emergency
5. Train and test your staff in activating the continuity plan and the roles and procedures within it.

Warning and Informing



The 2004 Civil contingencies Act includes ‘Public Awareness’ and ‘warning and informing’ as two distinct legal duties for Category 1 responders – advising the public of risks before an emergency and maintaining arrangements to warn the public and keep them informed in the event of an emergency.

Why warn and inform?

It is important that the information is seen as knowledge and is not meant to cause unnecessary alarm.

Single message to the public

Confusion can be caused when more than one organisation plans to warn the public about the same risk, at the same time and to the same extent. For this reason the various organisations that make up Cheshire Resilience Forum work together to produce one single message for the public and deliver it through a variety of media.

As with any other part of planning for emergency response, the communications approach to warn and inform the public (either directly or through the local media) is key to our emergency plans and CRF have a multi-agency communications framework.

What information is needed and when?

We also need to think carefully about what information different audiences will want, and when, in an emergency. It is important to consider for example that not everybody will have internet access or be able to receive messages which are only given in English.

The timing of information is also critical. People need to be given warning before an incident and then information, advice and guidance during, and after the incident.

Warning methods

The methods available to deliver urgent information to members of the public are extremely varied. Some warning methods include:

- Mobilising emergency services crews to go out on foot and knock doors
- Media announcements (typically radio and television)
- Automated telephone/fax/email/text messages to subscribers
- Loudhailer or other amplified messages from car or helicopter
- Electronic/variable message boards (similar to those used on motorways)
- PA announcements in public buildings, for example shopping centres, sports venues, transport systems
- Social Media

Working with the media

The CRF works closely with local radio in order to get timely and accurate emergency information out to the public across the county.

'Connecting in a Crisis' is an initiative by the BBC to help ensure that the public has the information it needs and demands during a civil emergency. It places responsibilities on certain media organisations to assist in the emergency response by broadcasting factual information which will help the public to help themselves.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15250977>

The CRF has a good reputation for its ability to warn and inform the public during an emergency. This is in no small part due to the relationship between the CRF and local media organisations. During the Bosley Wood Flour Mill major incident in Cheshire all agencies worked together to produce timely and factual reports for both local and national media.



The work of the Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) follows a simple cycle with each phase of the cycle leading into the next. Each emergency response effort leads into an assessment of what didn't go as well as it could have, this kicks off the next planning and preparation phase.



Mitigation

- Understanding the risks, how they are caused and what impact they would have locally
- Working in partnership to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring and lessen the impacts if the risk should occur

Preparedness

- Understanding the impacts and consequences of each risk
- Developing contingency plans for response to the risks
- Matching our capability to the needs of each emergency
- Developing longer-term recovery plans
- Awareness of each organisation roles and responsibilities
- Training and exercising
- Lessons learnt from previous incidents and exercises
- Developing incident management procedures
- Establishing links for help and assistance from other counties for lengthy/wide scale incidents

Response

- Initial emergency activities (public safety, evacuation and shelter, limiting the spread of the incident, search and rescue)
- Initial damage assessment
- Multi-agency command and control
- Warning and informing the public

Recovery

- Initial and long-term recovery efforts
- Re-housing of displaced people
- All recovery activities are based around 4 key areas:
 - o Humanitarian assistance
 - o Infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, power, communications, etc)
 - o Economic
 - o Environmental



Want to know more?

Production

The Community Risk Register is produced by Cheshire Resilience Forum and is contributed to by the following agencies:

- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Cheshire Constabulary
- North West Ambulance Service
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Cheshire East Council
- Halton Borough Council
- Warrington Borough Council
- NHS England
- Public Health England
- Environment Agency
- Highways England
- Military
- Health and Safety Executive
- Utility Companies
- British Transport Police
- Voluntary Groups

Links and further information

This guide is one of a series of documents, if you wish to find out more about Cheshire Resilience Forum, and the work that we complete please follow the link below:

<http://cheshireresilience.org.uk/>

Links for individual agencies and further information are available throughout this document.



Contact us

For any enquiries regarding individual risk assessments or any aspect of the work of Cheshire Resilience Forum please contact us:

Email: lrf.queries@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 01606 364009

Or write to us at: CRF Co-ordinator
Cheshire Resilience Forum
c/o Cheshire Constabulary HQ
Clemonds Hey
Oakmere Road
Winsford
CW7 2UA

All enquiries will be dealt with within 28 days. Specific Risk enquiries will be forwarded to the Risk lead and/or the relevant lead agency for that risk, and therefore a response may take a little longer.

Reference to other documents

The following resources have been useful in the compiling of this document:

National Risk Register
Security Strategy
Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Various documents produced by Cheshire Resilience Forum
Local Risk Management Guidance (LRMG)

This Document has been produced by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service for Cheshire Resilience Forum.

