



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION ON RISKS IN SUSSEX





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Emergency preparedness and management of the  
main risks in the County

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# Introduction

The Community Risk Register (CRR) provides information on the biggest emergencies that could happen to Sussex, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the impacts if they do. This includes the impacts to people, their houses, the environment and local businesses



## 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 organizations 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.

## THE SRF - WHO WE ARE

The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) is a partnership, made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency within East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

The Forum covers the Sussex Police force area, and includes the emergency services, local authorities, the Environment Agency and health agencies along with voluntary and private agencies.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) every part of the United Kingdom is required to establish a resilience forum.

## DEVELOPING THE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES

During emergencies we work together to focus on the needs of victims, 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. They include:

- **Evacuation and shelter**
- **Search and rescue**
- **Dealing with mass casualties**
- **Dealing with excess deaths**
- **Site clearance**
- **Humanitarian assistance.**

## WHAT WE DO

The Strategic Aim of Sussex Resilience Forum is:

“To ensure that there is an appropriate level of preparedness to enable an effective multi-agency response to emergencies which may have a significant impact on the communities of Sussex.”

All services and organisations work together to ensure that the best possible preparations and plans are in place for emergencies. These are regularly tested and updated so that agencies can respond immediately and effectively to any threat.

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

- **save lives**
- **prevent the 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?

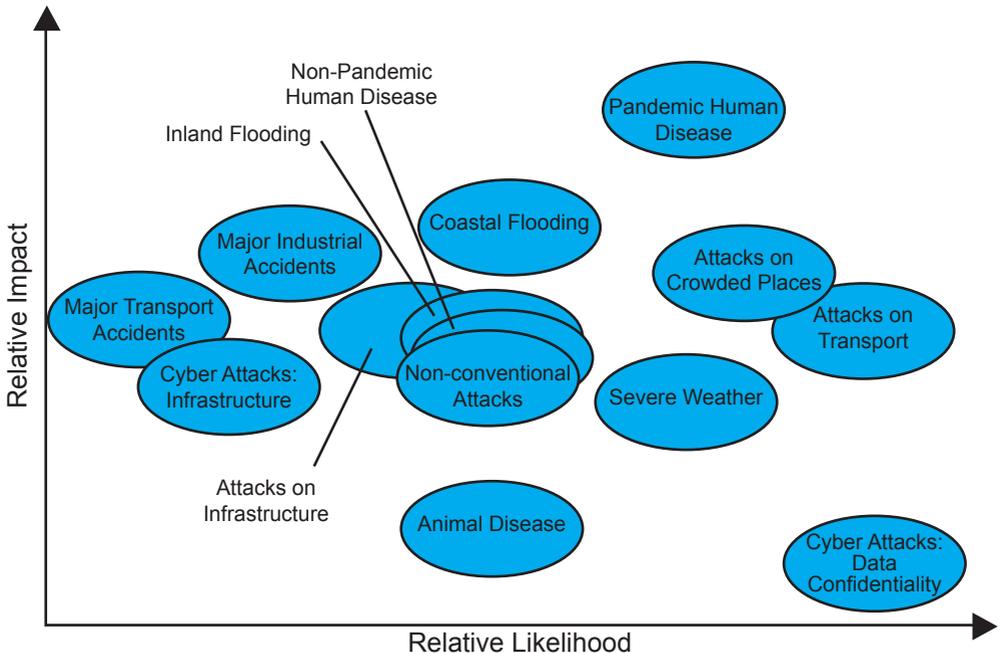
The Sussex Resilience Forum legally has to produce a Community Risk Register (CRR) to look at the likelihood and impact of a range of hazards.

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

The Sussex 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 it will happen. It means we know it is a possibility, and organisations have made arrangements to reduce its impact.

## AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE HIGH CONSEQUENCE RISKS FACING THE UNITED KINGDOM

SOURCE: NATIONAL RISK REGISTER (2010)



## SCOPE OF THE CRR

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

The risk assessments included in the register only cover non-malicious events (i.e. hazards) rather than threats (i.e. terrorist incidents). Specific information about threats is not detailed in a CRR.

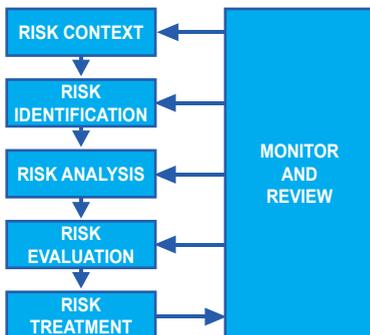
**The CRR focuses on serious emergencies. An emergency is defined as:**

- **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 the SRF CRR Group – a group of people from all organisations in the Sussex Resilience Forum.**



### RISK CONTEXT

The Sussex CRR puts the national risks in a local context, by looking at things like economic, geographic and demographic factors, whether the risk has happened before and what is in place to control it. Even within the county, a risk can have a different impact; e.g coastal flooding.



## RISK IDENTIFICATION

Some risks are more obvious than others. There are several main categories: natural events, human diseases, animal diseases, major accidents and malicious attacks.

## RISK ANALYSIS

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 related to a hazard or threat, happening over the next 5 years.
- Impact is a measure of the severity of the potential harm caused by the hazard or threat, looking at the impacts on health, the economy, the environment and society.

## RISK EVALUATION

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

## RISK TREATMENT

A risk treatment plan is agreed by the LRF 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 annual comprehensive review is carried out.

# THE SUSSEX PROFILE



**WEST SUSSEX**

**EAST SUSSEX**

**BRIGHTON & HOVE**

# The Sussex Profile

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

To understand why some risks are more significant in Sussex, 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

**Between 1991 and 2001 the population of the whole of Sussex increased by about 5%, slightly above the national rate.**

Several pockets around the county such as Crawley and Horsham in the West and Eastbourne in the East report rises well above the national rate.

Whilst in the past many people moved to Sussex to retire, it now has a very healthy birth rate. Sussex has seen an increase in the minority ethnic population. Although much less ethnically diverse than either the region or nationally, Sussex has become more diverse since 2001 and at a faster rate. There is a range of minority ethnic groups represented within the county, and for that reason, identifying specific needs can be difficult.

## HEALTH

**Nearly two thirds of the residents of Sussex considered their health to be good.**

This is slightly lower than the figures for England & Wales but we have a high percentage of people reporting limiting long-term illness particularly in Brighton.

Just under one in ten people provide unpaid health care to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental health, disability, or problems related to old age.

Around 1% of the population live in residential care or nursing homes.

## ENVIRONMENT

The physical geography of Sussex relies heavily on its lying on the southern part of the Wealden anticline. The major features of that are the high lands which cross the county in a west to east direction: the Weald itself, and the South Downs. The former consists of clays and sands; the latter chalk. Between those two ridges, mainly in West Sussex, lies the "Vale of Sussex"; at the eastern end of the county is the valley of the River Rother, which flows into what was a long sea inlet to reach the sea at Rye Bay.

**The Weald** is what remains of the vast forest that existed between the North and South Downs. It can be split into three parts, the High Weald, the Low Weald and the Greensand Ridge. The High Weald runs in an easterly direction from St Leonard's Forest, south-west of Crawley, and continues to Ashdown Forest. Its eastern extremity is in two sections, divided by the River Rother valley. The northern arm reaches the sea at Folkestone (in Kent); the southern at Fairlight Down east of Hastings. Sussex's highest point, Black Down, is close to the Surrey border at 305metres. Another high point is in the part called Forest Ridges: a height of 242metres is reached at Beacon Hill in the neighbourhood of Crowborough.

**The South Downs** start from near Petersfield in Hampshire. They are now officially designated a 'National Park'. On entering Sussex, their summit is about 16km from the sea. They run east for some 80km, approaching the coast, and terminating at Beachy Head. Their average height is about 152metres though Ditchling Beacon is 248metres (the third highest summit) and many other summits exceed 212 metres.

**The Vale of Sussex** is the lower undulating land which came into being when the softer clays between the Weald and the Downs were worn away. Crossing the Vale are most of the rivers in Sussex: those rising on the slopes of the Weald and cutting through the Downs to reach the sea (see Drainage). The Coastal plain is a fertile narrow belt from Chichester to Brighton. It is now heavily built up into a sprawling coastal conurbation.

The beaches along the coast vary from sandy to shingle: that factor, together with the mild climate of the coast, sheltered by the hills from north and east winds, has resulted in the growth of numerous resort towns, such as Hastings, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Seaford, Brighton, Shoreham-by-Sea, Worthing, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis.

**Marshland** There are several areas of low-lying marshland along the coast; these are in the west of the county, south of Chichester, between Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour; beyond Beachy Head, the "Pevensey Levels"; beyond Hastings, the "Pett Levels"; and beyond Rye, the "Walland Marsh" part of Romney Marsh. All were originally bays; natural coastal deposition and man-made protective walls have given rise to alluvial deposition.

**Drainage** The rivers wholly within the county are relatively short. All rise in the Weald (St Leonard's Forest area) and, apart from the eastern Rother, flow south to the English Channel, some using gaps in the South Downs to do so. The mouths of all have been affected by longshore drift. From west to east they are:

**Arun:** and its tributary the western River Rother: source of Arun near Horsham; entering the sea at Littlehampton

**Adur:** source near Cuckfield; mouth near Shoreham-by-Sea

**Ouse:** source near Lower Beeding; mouth at Newhaven

**Cuckmere:** rising near Heathfield; mouth Cuckmere Haven between Eastbourne and Seaford

**Eastern River Rother** and its many tributaries including the Rivers Brede and Tillingham; source, Rotherfield in the High Weald; it flows in an easterly direction and enters the sea at Rye Bay. A section known as the Kent Ditch forms the boundary between East Sussex and Kent.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

Despite being in the most populous region of the Country, Sussex remains essentially rural with 90% of East Sussex classified as 'Green Space'.

There is a well developed rail network throughout, mostly serving the capital for commuters and London Gatwick, the second busiest airport in the country which sees over 34million passengers per year.

The area of Sussex comprises 934,900 acres much of which is still agricultural.

The road network is surprisingly underdeveloped with only 8 miles of motorway (M23) and very few trunk roads.

There are still working harbours at Rye, Hastings, Newhaven and Shoreham, whilst Pagham and Chichester Harbours cater for leisure craft as does Brighton Marina.

Brighton and Chichester are the two cities within the county with other major towns already alluded to.

The county has a healthy student population and 3 Universities, as well as numerous FE colleges.

## ECONOMY

As well as a continuing strong agricultural base, Sussex has many commuter routes to London, as well as many of its own service industries.

West Sussex alone has over 100 major international companies, including Virgin Atlantic, Invensys, Body Shop International, Aviva, Rolls Royce, and American Express.

Tourism is the greatest service industry in the county and is set to thrive with London 2012 on the horizon.

The county has superb business support services provided by Sussex Enterprise, and The Learning and Skill Council.

As for the labour force, the wage levels remain lower than in the South East as a whole.



# TOP RISKS

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Transport Accidents	28



## PANDEMIC FLU

**An influenza (flu) pandemic is a worldwide event in which many people are infected with a flu virus in a short time.**

The World Health Organisation considers an outbreak to be a pandemic when:

- the infectious agent hasn't been seen before and there is no natural immunity to it
- the agent infects humans
- it spreads easily and survives in humans.

Unlike a normal flu virus, which has a 'season' (October to May in the UK), a flu pandemic can occur at any time.

Based on what has happened during previous pandemics, a pandemic is likely to occur in one or more waves, possibly weeks or months apart. Each wave may last around 15 weeks and up to half the population could be directly affected.

## HISTORY

The most notable influenza pandemic of the last century occurred in 1918 and is often referred to as 'Spanish flu'. It caused serious illness, with an estimated 20 to 40 million deaths worldwide (with the largest rates of death in people between 20 and 45 years old) and major disruption. In the UK alone there were an estimated 228,000 additional deaths.

## IN SUSSEX

As a result of rapid spread from person to person, pandemics have significant consequences on communities and economies, as well as on human health.

## Lead Agency – Health



## RISK IMPACTS

Based on historical information, scientific evidence and modeling, the following impacts are predicted for future pandemics:

- 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 have occurred by the end of a pandemic
- Health care and local authority social care systems become overloaded
- Normal life is likely to face wide disruption, particularly due to staff shortages affecting the provision of essential services, including production and transport of goods

## CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Vulnerable people exposed to lower levels of care
- Longer and more frequent disruptions to essential utilities
- Reduced levels of emergency services cover
- Disruptions to businesses and organizations through staff shortages and supply chain interruptions
- Impacts on the national and local economy.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Keep healthy – a healthy lifestyle will be a great defence against flu and other illnesses.
- 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 and observe advice and guidance from the NHS.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

We work together to plan for:

- Management of the demand on the NHS and social care
- Distribution of anti viral medication to the public
- Vaccinations
- Public awareness and media management
- managing excessive levels of death.

Individual SRF organisations have their own business continuity plans in place to cope in times of staff shortage.





## South Coast Flooding

**The risk of coastal inundation (flooding) is one of the most significant risks on the National Risk Assessment. The south coast (from the Hampshire border to the Kent border) is under threat from the possibility of tidal inundation caused by a combination of low atmospheric pressure over the English Channel, high tide levels (spring tides) and gales driving a storm surge down the English Channel.**

The outcome would be a very large sea surge in the channel, with tides, gale force winds and potentially heavy rainfall. Many coastal regions and tidal reaches of rivers could be affected all along the South of England.

Excessive tidal levels would cause many coastal and estuary defences to be overtopped or breached, and drains would back up. Inundation from these breaches would be rapid and dynamic, with minimal warning and for some people, no time to evacuate.

## HISTORY

There have been significant coastal flood events throughout history in Sussex. Most recently a storm surge in March 2008 caused widespread flooding around Selsey.

In October 1999 high tides and winds battered the south coast causing flooding at Pevensey and Selsey. A further storm in December 1999 led to the evacuation of properties in Pevensey although the forecast tide levels were not reached.

Coastal flooding affected several areas along the Sussex coast in February 1983. High tides caused flooding which affected over 150 properties in Littlehampton and Shoreham and properties were also flooded in Newhaven.

## IN SUSSEX

Sussex's coastline is a major attraction for many UK holiday-makers, and is also a popular area for retirement. There are thousands of static caravans along the coast across a large number of caravan sites, as well as other homes and businesses that support the coastal tourist industry.

Of these static caravans, a number are occupied for the majority of the year. The coast is a popular place for retirement and residents are less likely to have local family support and therefore can be more reliant on social care.

Sussex also contributes to the UK's food supplies through farming and agriculture. The salt contamination of agricultural land would have a significant impact on UK food supplies and invariably the prices paid by consumers.

Much has been done to protect the Sussex coastline, particularly in the construction of flood defences. However, sea levels are rising, and because of the national and local impacts of a serious flood event, the risk is something which must be taken seriously.

The risk of coastal flooding is managed through flood defences schemes across the county. However, the consequence of flooding, if defences are breached, is high.

### Lead agency – Environment Agency

#### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

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

#### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Find out if your property is within the flood risk area by logging on to the Environment Agency website or calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188.
- Plan where you will go if you have to evacuate and how you will get there.
- Know what to do to protect your property during a flood and have adequate insurance.
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or who 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 if you are unable to evacuate.
- Ensure you are signed up to Flood Warning Direct if you are in a flood risk area.
- Where possible, move valuable/irreplaceable items to upper floors during times of flood risk.

#### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Disruption to utilities (electricity and water supply)
- Flooding of properties
- Evacuation of residents
- Short, medium and long-term accommodation of 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 IN SUSSEX?

- Identification of flood risk areas and who and what is at risk.
- Production of multi-agency plans to assist with the evacuation of those communities who are at risk.
- Strategic planning to protect the areas at risk.
- 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 our sea and tidal flood defences.
- Developing flood rescue and assistance for those who become isolated by flooding.



## Inland Flooding

As the events of summer 2007 and the floods in Cumbria in 2009 showed, 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 and severity of extreme weather events are likely to raise the risk of flooding in the UK.

Excluding coastal flooding, the other main types are river flooding, surface water flooding caused by excess rainfall and groundwater flooding caused by a high water table in permeable rocks such as chalk. These types can be grouped under the general description of 'inland' flooding as they can and do occur simultaneously.



### HISTORY

In summer 2007 the UK was seriously affected by flooding. In Gloucestershire the flood affected thousands of homes, the water supply to 350,000 people was seriously disrupted and a major electricity substation came within inches of flooding which would have led to 250,000 people being without power.

Prolonged heavy rainfall in the autumn of 2000 caused extensive flooding across Sussex and over 800 properties were affected in Lewes. The winter of 1993 and 1994 also saw widespread flooding in Sussex. Chichester was particularly severely affected and over 200 properties were flooded in West Sussex.

### IN SUSSEX

Many agencies are involved in responding to floods. Different agencies are best equipped to deal with a specific type of flood. For example, the Highways Authorities can manage flooding on a public highway, while the local water company would deal with a burst water main.

The Environment Agency maintains and operates flood defences and provides a 24-hour flood warning service for properties at risk from river and tidal flooding in England and Wales.

**Lead agency –Environment Agency**

## RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Risk to life (people and animals)
- Damage to property, businesses, 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, electricity and water supplies
- Evacuation of residents
- Short, medium and long-term accommodation of those whose homes are flooded
- Long-term psychological and health impacts
- Long-term restoration and recovery issues for homes and businesses.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Find out if your property is within a flood risk area by logging on to the Environment Agency website or calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188..
- Plan where you will go if you have to evacuate and how you will get there.
- Know what to do to protect your property during a flood and have adequate insurance.
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or who 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.
- Ensure that you have signed up to Flood Warning Direct if you are in a flood risk area.
- Where possible, move valuable/ irreplaceable items to upper floors during times of flood risk.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Identification of where the flood water could go and who and what is at risk.
- Production of multi-agency plans to assist with the evacuation of those communities who are at risk.
- Strategic area planning to protect the areas at risk.
- Provision of guidance for the public about protecting property 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.
- Developing flood rescue and assistance for those who become isolated by flooding

## FLOODLINE WARNINGS DIRECT

Floodline Warnings Direct is a free service run by the Environment Agency that gives advance warning of flooding by telephone, mobile, fax or pager. To register for the service call Floodline on 0845 988 1188; it is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To register, all you need is a telephone number where flood warnings can be sent 24 hours a day. Calls to the Floodline are charged at local call rates.

If you live in an area at risk from flooding from rivers or the sea, and are not currently registered for the Floodline Warnings Direct service, you may still receive an automatic warning from the Environment Agency when a flood occurs.

People can also find out what flood warnings are in force in their area any time of the day or night by:

- contacting Floodline 0845 988 1188 and listening to recorded flood warning messages or speaking to Environment Agency staff
- viewing Teletext (page 154) or Ceefax (page 419)
- viewing the flood warnings (updated every 15 minutes) on the Environment Agency website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline).

The Environment Agency is the main place for information on past floods, flood maps, and practical guides on protecting your home during a flood event. You can access these services and more at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)



## Severe Weather

### HISTORY

**The United Kingdom does experience severe weather due to its maritime temperate climate with occasional continental and arctic influences. These can bring with them heavy rain or snow, strong winds and extreme temperatures. As experience has shown, severe weather can take a variety of forms and at times can cause significant problems and disruption to normal life.**

The Great Storm of 1987 occurred on the night of 15/16 October 1987, when an unusually strong weather system caused winds to hit much of Southern England and northern France. It was the worst storm to hit England since the Great Storm of 1703 (284 years earlier) and was responsible for the deaths of at least 22 people in England and France combined (18 in England, at least 4 in France).

Over the coming years, we are likely to see rising temperatures and sea levels, and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events in the UK. Weather forecasting can now give warning of most events and offer general advice.

The hot summer of 2003 is estimated to have resulted in more than two thousand excess deaths, mainly among vulnerable people. Since then, the Heat Health Watch system has been introduced and during the hot weather of July 2006 significantly fewer excess deaths were recorded

There are many types of severe weather that can have a serious local impact in the UK. The main types of severe weather that we need to plan for include storms, gales, low temperatures, heavy snow, heatwaves and drought.

A storm also battered many parts of the UK on 18 January 2007, with gusts of wind up to 77mph recorded at Heathrow. This caused 9 deaths and widespread damage to trees and buildings across the UK, along with power disruption. Strong winds can cause significant disruption to businesses due to structural damage and route blockages.



In the Winter of 2009/10, snow caused disruption across most of the UK resulting in school closures, power outages and people being unable to get to work for a number of days depending on their location. In February 2007 and 2009, heavy snow brought transport disruptions and affected individuals and organisations across the country. There have also been a number of occasions recorded where snow has covered large areas of the country for over a week.

## IN SUSSEX

The varied nature of Sussex's landscape and the widely spread population mean that weather can have a great impact on the county. Our reliance on the road network to go about our daily lives becomes evident when it is disrupted by severe weather events.

There is nothing we can do at a local level to reduce the likelihood of severe weather events, however we can be prepared for these events in order to stay safe and maintain essential services.

### Lead Agency – County Council

#### RISK IMPACTS

##### Storms and Gales

- Danger to life from windswept objects and structural failures
- Damage to property
- Damage to infrastructure and communications networks
- Travel disruption.

##### Low Temperatures and Heavy Snow

- Travel disruption
- Vulnerable people exposed to health threatening temperatures
- Power and water failures
- School and public building closures.

##### Heatwaves

- An increased number of admissions to hospital and consultations with GPs due to sunburn, heat exhaustion, respiratory problems and other illnesses such as food poisoning
- Increased vehicle breakdowns due to overheating engines
- Road surfaces deteriorating as tarmac begins to melt.

#### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of severe weather are varied, some common issues include road and travel disruptions, damage and disruption to basic utilities, and damage to property.

These have a knock-on consequence to individuals, businesses and the ability for organisations to deliver essential functions to the community.



#### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Listen to weather forecasts and heed any warnings of extreme weather.
- Plan any journeys or activities with the weather in mind.
- If you have to travel in severe weather make sure you have adequate clothing and emergency supplies in your vehicle.

#### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans to manage severe weather events.
- Consideration of weather forecasts prior to any large events in the county.
- Receiving and distributing early notifications of severe weather.



# Fuel Shortages

**Everyone relies to some extent on fuel, whether it is for getting to work, distributing products or providing services. The availability of fuel within the UK is generally very good, however there have been examples within recent years of brief disruptions to supply on both a regional and national basis.**

A disruption could be caused by a number of factors, including scarcity of supply, a technical problem with part of the fuel supply infrastructure, industrial action or public protest. In the event of such a disruption to supply, it is also possible that stocks could be further depleted through increased consumer demand (panic buying).

## HISTORY

In September 2000, blockades at key oil distribution points caused nationwide fuel shortages for over a week. Threats of similar action in August 2005 led to panic buying which caused localised disruptions across the country.

The industrial action taken by Shell tanker drivers in June 2008 had a widespread effect on fuel distribution throughout the UK resulting in some filling stations running out of fuel.

Between 1998 and 2008 traffic flow on major roads increased by 7 per cent, a lower rate of growth than the increase across Great Britain (9 per cent). The average vehicle flow on the South East's major roads in 2008 was 26,900 vehicles per km per day, substantially higher than the Great Britain average of 17,700. The average flow on minor roads was the second highest in Great Britain at 5,000 vehicles per km per day.

## IN SUSSEX

Sussex covers a huge geographical area. People and products travel many miles on a daily basis. Many essential services including the daily care of vulnerable people, are reliant on adequate fuel supplies.

**Lead Agency – County Council**

### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- public and commercial filling stations exhausted within 48 hours
- up to 10 days to return normal supplies.

### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- inability to provide essential services to vulnerable individuals
- local and national economic impact.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Maintain your vehicle in order that it is as fuel efficient as possible.
- Minimise travel during fuel shortages, and only make essential journeys.
- Consider other means of conserving fuel, such as car-sharing, walking or cycling.
- Avoid panic-buying.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Identification of filling stations for essential fuel users such as emergency service vehicles which links to the national emergency plan for fuel.
- Production of multi-agency plans to manage a fair distribution of fuel to maintain key public services when it is in limited supply.



## Loss of Critical Infrastructure

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

Many parts of the infrastructure network are dependent 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:

### **ELECTRICITY / GAS INCIDENT**

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 would be 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 the management of a local incident to a national level disruption.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

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

### **WATER**

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 also be a significant impact on health and food provision, as well as an impact on the capabilities of fire and rescue services.

### **FOOD**

There are no realistic scenarios within the UK which would lead to a shortage of food supplies

## IN SUSSEX

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 the more rural areas of Sussex may be affected for longer than those in the larger towns.

Lead Agency – Primarily West Sussex County Council but the lead agency in Sussex for infrastructure failures varies dependent on the nature of the emergency and its impacts.



### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- 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).

### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of a wide-scale infrastructure incident could include:

- Disruption to essential services and activities
- Endangerment of vulnerable people
- Financial impact on businesses
- Civil unrest
- Increased demand on emergency services
- Travel disruption
- Disruption to businesses and normal home life

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- Know where the cut off points are for your utilities, in case of gas and water emergencies.
- It may be necessary to shut off the supply to every premises in the affected area.
- Keep an emergency kit in your home containing items such as a wind-up torch, battery or wind-up radio and supplies of tinned food and drinking water.
- Outages may come with forewarning. If this is the case consider how you can be prepared e.g. fill the bath with drinking water.
- Be on alert for bogus callers posing as utilities company workers.
- Make sure you can make telephone calls by having at least one fixed phone connect directly into the phone socket.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Work with the utilities companies to manage supply interruptions.
- Production of multi-agency plans to manage long-term utilities outages.
- Identification of vulnerable people who will need special treatment in the event of a utilities outage.



# Animal Disease

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

## HISTORY

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

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

## IN SUSSEX

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

## Lead Agency – County Council

### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Damage to local agricultural economy
- Mass cull / disposal of animal carcasses
- Loss of livelihoods 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 DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Register any livestock 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 livestock where possible.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans for managing animal disease outbreaks.
- Raising disease awareness amongst farmers and farm workers.



# Coastal Pollution

The English Channel is a major international transport route for many products, including a large amount of oil. One of the risks to Sussex is the potential for a shipping accident, which could cause oil or other hazardous cargo to be released into the sea and then be washed up on the shoreline causing widespread pollution and damage to the local environment, wildlife, and economy.

## HISTORY

In 1996 the tanker 'Sea Empress' grounded on the approach to Milford Haven resulting in 72,000 tonnes of crude oil being lost in the week-long salvage.

100km of coastline were affected including wildlife, fishing and tourism.

The clean up operation took almost five years with an estimated cost of £60 million.

In January 2007 the MSC Napoli ran into difficulties in the English Channel after being damaged by storm force winds. It was beached in Lyme Bay where the salvage operation was focused. During this time oil, debris and cargo from the ship washed up onto the local shoreline.

In January 2008 the Ice Prince sank off the Isle of Wight and shed its deck cargo of timber that washed up on the beaches of Sussex and Kent, the majority at Worthing in West Sussex.

## IN SUSSEX

Sussex has a large number of visitors to the coastal areas during the spring and summer months. A significant oil pollution incident would require a rapid and co-ordinated clean up operation to ensure that damage to local wildlife and economy is minimized.

**Lead Agency –  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Pollution of sea water
- Pollution of the beaches and shoreline
- Damage to various Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Damage to wildlife and environment
- Health risk to coastal residents and holiday makers.

### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Economic impact to agriculture and tourism economy
- Closure of ports affecting movement of passengers and freight
- Unrecoverable damage to coastal businesses

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Co-operate with organisations during any clean up operation.
- Avoid temptation to scavenge any cargo which has been washed up.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans to effectively clean up any oil spills in order to minimise pollution and impacts on coastal communities and safely dispose of hazardous materials.
- Through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency:
  - Protecting the environment by minimising the risk and impact of pollution from ships and offshore installations.
  - Promoting high standards of safety at sea.





## Industrial Accidents

Certain industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential to cause accidents. Some of these accidents may cause serious injuries to people or damage to the environment both nearby, and further away from the site of the accident.



### HISTORY

#### Buncefield

Recent experience of this type of incident in the UK was at Hemel Hempstead with the Buncefield Oil Depot explosion in 2004. The explosion measured 2.4 on the Richter scale, and caused the largest fire in Europe since the Second World War. 2,000 people were evacuated from their homes, and 370 businesses were affected, employing 16,500 people. Sixty members of the public required medical aid and the accident caused major disruption to roads, fuel supplies, local businesses and the supply chain.

#### COMAH

The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) (1999) and their amendments (2005) are the enforcing regulations within the United Kingdom.

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. They are determined by the Health and Safety Executive and are applicable to any organisation or site storing or handling large quantities of industrial chemicals of a hazardous nature. Types of establishments include chemical warehousing, chemical production facilities and some distributors.

## IN SUSSEX

Although Sussex is not considered more at risk than any other part of the country, there are industrial sites, fuel and gas pipelines running through the area and storage depots that all have the potential to cause a major fire or explosion.

The potential for a large impact does not always come from a large industrial site. If a fire involves acetylene cylinders (as found in many garages, workshops etc), fire service procedures require the imposition of a hazard zone for up to 24 hours of 200m. Anyone living within this zone will be evacuated until it is safe to return – it is important to be prepared so you know what you would do if this affected your home or business.

### Lead Agency – East Sussex Fire and Rescue

## PUBLIC INFORMATION ZONES (PIZ)

Part of the COMAH Regulations puts a duty on the “Competent Authority” to determine an area around a COMAH establishment in which information must be made available. This area is known as the Public Information Zone (PIZ).

People within the PIZ must receive information about how they may be affected by a major accident at that establishment, this includes information about the potential major hazards and the safety measures that are in place as well as how they will be warned and kept informed in the event of a major accident and the actions that they should take.

Most other industrial sites have their own on site emergency plans.

### RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Endangerment of life
- Damage to property and the local area
- Pollution of the local environment and water courses.

### CONSEQUENCES

- The consequences could include:
- Impact to UK oil and gas supplies
- Economic impacts through damage to local businesses
- Long-term restoration and recovery of the local area
- Contamination of crops and agricultural land.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Be aware if you live near a hazardous site. If you hear warning of an incident, go indoors, close all your doors and windows and tune into BBC Local Radio for advice.
- This advice also applies in the event of a significant fire-related smoke plume from any industrial site.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Work directly with site operators who manage particularly hazardous sites.
- Identification of ways and means of communicating with the public.
- Support for local communities to develop their own emergency plans.





## Transport Accidents

**Certain industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential to cause accidents. Some of these accidents may cause serious injuries to people or damage to the environment both nearby, and further away from the site of the accident.**

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.



### ROAD

The majority of roads are managed by East and West Sussex County Council's and Brighton & Hove's Highways departments, whilst the roads which form part of the UK's strategic road network (the A23, A27, M23) are managed by the Highways Agency.

Other significant roads within the county include the A24, A272, A259 and the A22. These roads are all heavily used by haulage companies to move goods around the country and to and from ports.

Most road accidents are within the routine capabilities of the three lead emergency services. However, there is always the risk of an accident going beyond these capabilities and the need for more extended agency involvement, especially if the accident involves chemicals or hazardous materials.

## RAIL

The rail network passes through Sussex both from East to West and North to Gatwick and London. The CRR considers the possibility of a rail accident within the county.

## SEA

The English Channel is the busiest shipping lane in the world carrying cargo and passenger vessels. The CRR considers the possibility of an incident involving a passenger vessel off the coast (fire, stranding, collision or sinking).

## AIR

Gatwick Airport is the UK's second largest airport and the busiest single-runway airport in the world. It serves more than 200 destinations (more than

any other UK airport) in 90 countries for around 33 million passengers a year on short- and long-haul point-to-point services.

The flight paths that serve the Airport cover a number of large conurbations in Sussex and the CRR considers the possibility of an aircraft accident within the County.

## IN SUSSEX

Sussex has a large and varied amount of transport infrastructure which carries with it the risk of incidents and disruption.

## Lead Agency – Sussex Police

### RISK IMPACTS

- The predicted impacts could include:
- 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.

### CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Impact on local businesses through delayed or failed deliveries
- Delays in emergency services reaching people.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- When travelling make yourself aware of any emergency procedures issued by operators.
- 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.
- Plan your journey in advance and listen to the local radio.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Work with national transport companies to plan for dealing with accidents.
- The various Highways departments work alongside the Highways Agency to keep all major county roads accessible during times of severe weather.



# Sussex Emergency Profile

## Sussex Emergency Profile

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

Examples of this are listed below

### RISK IMPACTS

- Risks to life
- Affect on vulnerable people
- Have the capability to provide continuous response to large scale and long term emergencies

### CONSEQUENCES

- The evacuation of large numbers of people from the area of an emergency, including a coastal flooding scenario
- When evacuating people from their homes be able to manage mobility and health issues
- Provide temporary shelter for all those affected by emergencies

### WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Ensuring there are no communication barriers when getting emergency information out to the public
- Ensure that essential services are maintained during emergencies, especially in relation to fuel shortages
- Identifying those people in the affected area who are most vulnerable
- Provide assistance to people travelling through the county on the road or rail network if they are involved in an emergency

### Threats to the UK and in Sussex

**Terrorism presents a serious and sustained threat to the United Kingdom and UK interests abroad.**

International terrorism from groups such as Al Qaeda presents a threat on a scale not previously encountered. These threats may come in the form of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, or could even be a cyber attack.

Other domestic extremist groups may aspire to campaigns of violence but lack developed terrorist capabilities. For the most part, they pose a threat to public order but not to national security.

Sussex Police, together with police forces and other agencies throughout the United Kingdom, is better trained and equipped than ever to combat the threat of International and Domestic Terrorism.

This allows the regular assessment of security measures in place and review of the policing response to ensure we meet the threat appropriately.

#### What should you do?

You should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism. Look out for suspicious bags on public transport or any other potential signs of terrorist activity you may encounter.

But you should not let the fear of terrorism stop you from going about your day-to-day life as normal. Your risk of being caught up in a terrorist attack is very low.

Anti-Terrorist Hotline

**Anyone who notices unusual activity is urged to phone the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.**

Your information will be followed up and action will be taken whenever appropriate. Please do contact us - even if it's just 'a hunch' - you may hold the missing jigsaw piece in an ongoing investigation.

# Preparedness



# Preparedness



Knowing what do to 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.

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.

Radio is also very reliable as it can still broadcast and be received during a power cut.

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 and stay out).

The SRF organisations work together with BBC Local Radio (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 during any 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.

## AT HOME IN AN EMERGENCY

If you are at home and an emergency happens, try to gather together:

- A list of useful phone numbers, e.g. for your doctor and close relatives
- House and car keys
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication
- A battery or wind-up radio, with spare batteries
- A battery or wind-up torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit
- Your mobile phone and charger
- Cash and credit cards
- Spare clothes and blankets
- Bottled water, ready-to-eat food (e.g. tinned food) and a bottle/tin opener, in case you have to remain in your home for several days.

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:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows
- Take the items listed on the left of this page
- If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets
- Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads)
- Tune in to 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 emergency services or local authorities about any specific actions which you must follow when it is safe to return home.



# HOW CAN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY BE PREPARED?



## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Wide-scale emergencies can and do happen. In the last 5 years the UK has seen events such as heavy snow, flooding, terrorist attacks, utilities failures and fuel shortages.

The lessons learned 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 PLAN?

A community emergency 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.

Sussex's Resilience Forum are encouraging and assisting parishes to develop community emergency plans in order to better prepare for the realistic risks which they face.

## WHY HAVE A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN?

The purpose of community resilience is to encourage people to plan and be prepared to put in place a self-help response within a community which is affected by an emergency. Experience has shown that sometimes due to the scale and/or nature of the emergency, the normal response provided by the emergency services and the 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 the Sussex Resilience Forum.

Community resilience measures can be as little as just having a designated point of contact within the parish 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 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?**

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, or disruption to your computer systems?
- A disruption which affects your key suppliers or partners?

**Does your organisation have adequate business continuity measures in place?**

### **5 STEPS TO EFFECTIVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

#### **1. Understand your business**

- What parts of the business are critical and what priority would you allocate to restoring functions if they fail?

#### **2. Risk assessment**

- What risks does your business face (internal and external)?
- 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**

- People
- Premises
- Equipment
- Information
- Communications
- External suppliers / contractors

## **BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT**

Business Continuity Management is the process through which organisations aim to continue the delivery of their key products and services during and following a disruption to normal activity, and to recover afterwards. Effective business continuity is the first line of defence for any organisation to ensure they are able to maintain the delivery of their core services and, in the long-run, to assure their survival.

Organisations should consider a wide range of potentially disruptive challenges, both internal, for example disruption to computer systems, and external, for example severe weather.

**The Community Risk Register provides Sussex businesses with information on the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks, in order to assist their own risk management and business continuity management arrangements.**

#### **4. Document information in a user-friendly format about your businesses' critical functions and the resources required including alternatives / backups for each.**

- 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 Civil Contingencies Act 2004 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?

A well informed public is better able to respond to an emergency and to minimise the impact of the emergency on the community.

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

## SINGLE MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

Confusion would be caused if more than one organisation were to plan 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 Sussex's 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 a key part of our emergency plans.

## 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 out 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 on doors
- Media announcements (typically radio and television)
- Automated telephone / fax / e-mail / text
- Messages to subscribers
- Loudhailer or other amplified messages from car or helicopter
- Electronic/variable message boards (similar to those used on motorways)
- Direct radio broadcasts to shipping (in maritime incidents)
- PA announcements in public buildings, for example shopping centres, sports venues, transport systems.

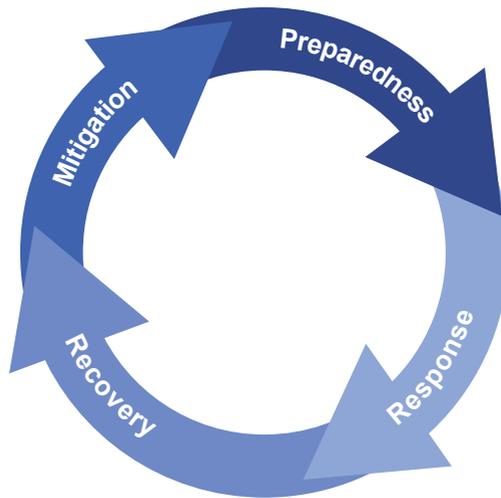
## WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

'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.

The BBC's 'Connecting in a Crisis' initiative places responsibilities on certain media organizations to assist in the emergency response by broadcasting factual information which will help the public to help themselves.

Sussex's Resilience Forum works closely with BBC Local Radio in order to get timely and accurate emergency information out to the public across the county.

Sussex 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 Resilience Forum and local media organisations.



The work of the Resilience Forum in Sussex 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 capabilities to the needs of each emergency.
- Developing longer-term recovery plans.
- Awareness of each organisation roles and responsibilities.
- Training and exercising.
- Lessons learned from previous incidents.
- 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:
  1. Humanitarian assistance.
  2. Infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, power, communications, etc).
  3. Economic.
  4. Environmental.



**WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?**

# Want to know more?

## Production

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

- Sussex Police
- West Sussex Fire & Rescue
- East Sussex Fire & Rescue
- South East Coast Ambulance
- Adur District Council
- Arun District Council
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Chichester District Council
- Crawley Borough Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Horsham District Council
- Hastings Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Rother District Council
- Wealden District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- NHS
- Health Protection Agency
- MCGA
- Voluntary groups

## Web links and further information

If you wish to find out more about the risk assessment process, the SRF or to see a more detailed version of the Community Risk Register please follow the link below.

[www.sussexemergency.info](http://www.sussexemergency.info)

## Contact us

For any enquiries regarding the individual risk assessments or any aspect of the work of Sussex's Resilience Forum please contact us on :- [sussexresilienceforum@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sussexresilienceforum@sussex.pnn.police.uk)

Or write to us at

**Sussex Resilience Forum  
Operations Branch  
Sussex Police Headquarters  
Church Lane  
Malling  
Lewes BN7 2DZ**

All enquiries will be dealt with as soon as possible. Specific risk enquiries will be forwarded to the lead agency for that risk.





## USEFUL CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

IN EMERGENCIES ONLY, FOR POLICE, FIRE OR AMBULANCE CALL 999

### Non Emergency Calls

Childline	0800 1111
UK Power Networks (Electricity)	0800 783 8866
Flooding (Environment Agency)	0845 988 1188
NHS Direct	0845 4647
RSPCA Cruelty Line	08705 555 999
Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
Gas Leaks	0800 111 999
Sussex Police	0846 60 70 999
Terrorist Hotline	0800 789 321
Water Leak line	0800 820 999
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111

### Personal Information

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Next of kin:

Address:

Tel:

### Family Allergies/Medication:

Name 1:

Allergy:

Medication:

Name 2:

Allergy:

Medication:

Name 3:

Allergy:

Medication:

Name 4:

Allergy:

Medication:

## 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.

## AT HOME IN AN EMERGENCY

If you are at home and an emergency happens, try to gather together:

- A list of useful phone numbers, e.g. for your doctor and close relatives
- House and car keys
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication
- A battery or wind-up radio, with spare batteries
- A battery or wind-up torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit
- Your mobile phone and charger
- Cash and credit cards
- Spare clothes and blankets
- Bottled water, ready-to-eat food (e.g. tinned food) and a bottle/tin opener, in case you have to remain in your home for several days.

## 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:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows
- Take the items listed on the left of this page
- If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets
- Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads)
- Tune in to 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 emergency services or local authorities about any specific actions which you must follow when it is safe to return home.

**Do not forget to check on neighbours and vulnerable people in your community where it is safe to do so.**

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION ON

# RISKS



Version 1

# IN SUSSEX

All information correct at the time of publication

Sussex Resilience Forum gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum in the production of this document.