

Community Risk Register for Sussex

Version 1.0



SUSSEXRESILIENCEFORUM

The **Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF)** supports members to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies



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Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER

This document is designed to inform people about local risks, so they can think about what they can do to be better prepared in their homes, communities, and businesses.

NATIONAL RISK REGISTER

The National Risk Register (NRR) is the government's current assessment of the most serious risks facing the UK.

The UK faces a broad and diverse range of risks, including the threats to lives, health, society, critical infrastructure, economy, and sovereignty. Risks may be non-malicious, such as accidents or natural hazards, or they may be malicious threats from those who seek to do us harm.

To ensure the UK is prepared for a broad range of scenarios, the NRR sets out a "reasonable worst-case scenario" (RWCS) of each risk.

COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER FOR SUSSEX

The Community Risk Register (CRR) is a localised version of the NRR. Each Local Resilience Forum has a statutory responsibility to make a CRR available to the public. The CRR for Sussex provides information on the emergencies that could affect Sussex, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen, the impacts if they do, and ways to be prepared.

EMERGENCIES

An emergency is defined as:

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

Source: Civil Contingencies Act (2004)



ACUTE AND CHRONIC RISKS

The NRR and the CRR focus on “acute” risks, which are discrete events requiring an emergency response. In addition, the UK faces a range of “chronic” risks, which are long-term challenges that gradually erode our economy, community, way of life and/or national security. For example a “chronic” risk would be climate change, which is referred to further on in this document, whereas an “acute” risk would be an incident such as surface water flooding.

RISK IDENTIFICATION

The Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) assesses risks using national evidence (including the UK National Risk Register and local data).

Considering a reasonable worst-case scenario for each risk and review the register regularly with multi-agency partners.

THE SUSSEX RESILIENCE FORUM

Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) every part of the United Kingdom is required to establish a Local Resilience Forum.

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.

Membership of the SRF covers the Sussex Police force area, and includes the emergency services, local authorities, Environment Agency and health agencies along with voluntary and private agencies such as utility companies.

WHAT WE DO

The role of the SRF is to support members to plan and prepare for localised incidents and catastrophic emergencies. The SRF brings members together to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on our local communities. The SRF is a forum for coordination and cooperation between responders at the local level. It provides a formal structure to support members to discharge their civil protection duties.

However, the SRF is not a legal entity and does not replace any of the statutory responsibilities that are placed on individual organisations or agencies.

All organisations within the SRF work together to ensure that the best possible preparations and plans are in place for responding to emergencies.

This includes concurrent emergencies which may require more complex coordination, resource allocation, and risk communication strategies.

These plans are regularly tested and updated to ensure they are effective.

All organisations 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
- protect the environment
- facilitate a criminal investigation and judicial process if necessary.



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 2011 and 2021 the population of Sussex increased by about 9.4%, slightly above the national rate.

The largest increase in population has been for older people, though only Chichester, Mid Sussex and Horsham districts have seen percentage rises above the national average.

HEALTH

Sussex has a population of 1.7 million. We have a growing population, as more people are coming to live in Sussex. We also have an ageing population. This means more people increasingly need care and support.

There is huge diversity amongst our people and communities – we have some of the most and least deprived areas in the country. People living in more deprived areas have worse health and outcomes and there are differences in life expectancy across Sussex which matches deprivation. The greatest levels of deprivation in Sussex are along the coast and in South West Crawley.

Many people are living with long-term conditions that are affecting their day-to-day lives and need to be better supported to manage their condition. Their carers also need to be supported.





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 and river Mole, 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 a significant percentage 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 33 million passengers per year.

There are still working harbours at Rye, Hastings, Newhaven and Shoreham, whilst Pagham, Eastbourne (Sovereign) and Chichester Harbours cater for leisure craft as does Brighton Marina and Littlehampton. Brighton and Chichester are the two cities within the county with other major towns already alluded to.

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.

Tourism is the greatest service industry in the county and continues to thrive with many international visitors coming to the area.





Section 1

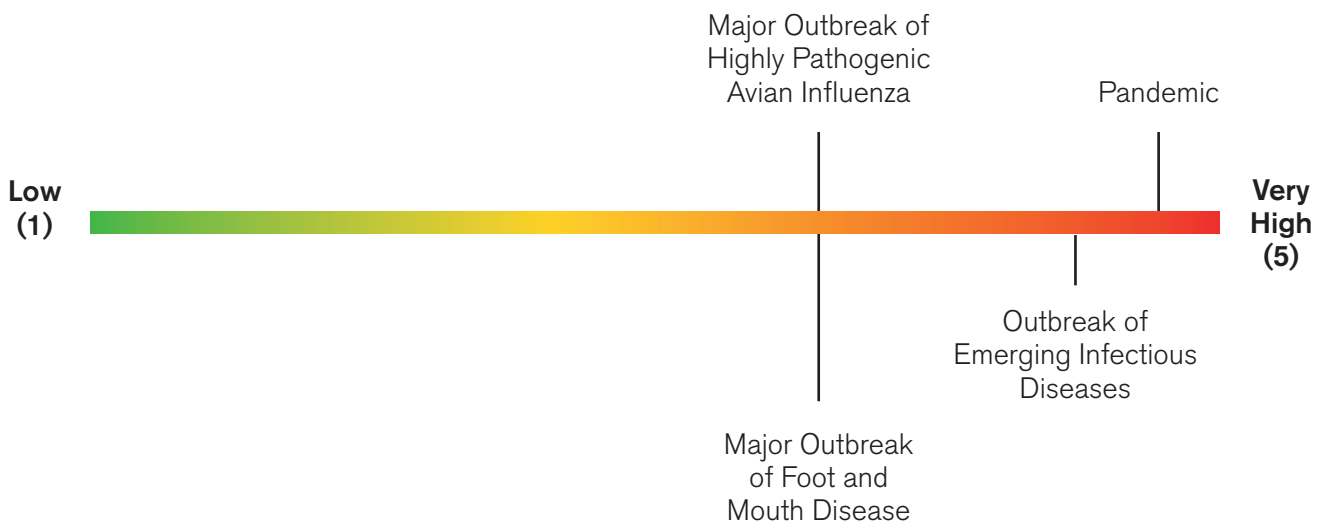
Human, Animal and Plant Health

Our risk summary on human health relates to the outbreak of emerging infectious diseases. This can mean an outbreak of previously unknown disease, such as COVID-19 or cases of known diseases that re-emerge or are rapidly increasing.

In all cases, these can lead to a pandemic, meaning that the disease has spread to a wide geographical area. As we experienced with COVID-19, pandemics can lead to a dramatic loss of human life, unprecedented challenges to our national health service and our economy.

Animal health relates to conditions that affect the health and well-being of animals. They can be caused by various factors such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi or environmental stress. Some examples of animal disease are Foot and Mouth disease, African Swine Flu and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). Animal diseases represent threats to the environment, animal welfare, public health, and the economy. Livestock diseases contribute to losses via increased mortality, reduced productivity, control costs, loss in trade, decreased market value, and food insecurity.

These risk ratings are formulated based on their likelihood and impact in Sussex. They have been assessed locally by SRF partners, in conjunction with the national rating for each risk.



Pandemic

Pandemics are usually the result of a new pathogen, which has not been found in humans before (such as, virus, bacteria, fungi or other organisms that cause disease) emerging and spreading quickly around the world due to lack of population immunity.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The most significant pathogen to materialise into a pandemic in the UK in recent years has been COVID-19. This impacted all aspect of society including the economy, public health, and societal behaviour. The lessons from COVID-19 have been incorporated into the government's risk assessment methodology. The reasonable

worst-case scenario has been reshaped into a more generic pandemic scenario reflecting a broader range of possible manifestations, and additional impacts, measures and data have been incorporated into the assessment.

However, the government continues to plan and prepare for a range of pandemic and emerging infectious diseases scenarios, across different transmission routes: respiratory, blood and touch and by vectors such as mosquitos. This approach covers known or unknown pathogens allowing the UK to have a flexible response to pandemics that are built on lessons learned from exercises and incidents.



Outbreak of Emerging Infectious Disease

Infectious diseases can be caused by harmful organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and viruses that attack the body. Diseases can be spread directly from person to person or indirectly including, by contaminated surfaces, food, water, or from animals to humans.

Emerging infectious diseases include new or newly recognised diseases and could result in large numbers of people falling ill.

Some recently emerged diseases, such as Ebola and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, are classified as High Consequence Infectious Diseases. These are acute infectious diseases that typically have a high fatality case rate and may or may not have effective prophylaxis or treatment and can be difficult to recognise or diagnose rapidly. They require an enhanced

individual, population and system response to ensure management is effective, efficient and safe.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS responders have well-tested response capabilities to detect, contain and treat novel infectious diseases.

While anyone can be affected by infectious diseases some people are particularly at risk of being infected, or of developing more severe illness including:

- If you have a weakened immune system
- Older adults
- Babies and young children
- If you're pregnant.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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 disruption, particularly due to staff shortages affecting the provision of essential services, including production and transportation of goods.

CONSEQUENCES

- 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 organisations through staff shortages and supply chain interruptions
- Impacts on the national and local economy.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Management of the demand on the NHS and social care
- Distribution of anti-viral medication to the public
- Vaccinations
- Providing public information and advice
- Individual SRF organisations have their own business continuity plans in place to cope in times of staff shortages.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Practice good handwashing** – especially before eating or preparing food, after using the toilet, stroking a pet, or coughing and sneezing
- ✓ **Practice good food hygiene** – wash fruit and vegetables before consuming and make sure food is cooked properly before eating it
- ✓ **Insects that bite** – use insect repellent and cover up exposed skin
- ✓ **Keep healthy** – a healthy lifestyle is a great defense against flu and other illnesses
- ✓ **Get the flu jab** - certain occupations and high-risk groups can obtain this free of charge
- ✓ **Keep up-to-date** with all vaccinations
- ✓ **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.

DURING

- ✓ **Speak to a health professional** – contact your pharmacy, GP, or NHS 111 for specific advice about certain diseases
- ✓ **Follow advice** from UK Health Security Agency and the NHS
- ✓ **Stay at home** – wash your hands often with warm water and soap, wear a face mask or cover your mouth and nose with tissue if you cough or sneeze and clean infected areas or surfaces you touch frequently
- ✓ **Protect vulnerable people** – they are more likely to have serious complications from infectious diseases, so try not to visit them until you feel better
- ✓ **Rest** – take the time needed to recover properly.

AFTER

- ✓ **Continue to take any prescribed medication** until you have finished the course, even if you feel better
- ✓ **Try to avoid the reintroduction of the disease**, by making it a habit to practice good hygiene. You can do this by regularly washing your hands and taking care to prepare food properly. This will help prevent re-infection.

Animal Disease

Major Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly infectious viral disease with significant economic impact, affecting several types of animal including cattle, pigs, sheep, deer and goats. This is spread easily, for example through direct contact with infected animals (meat, milk, hair), clothing, contact with contaminated equipment, vehicles and feed.

The last major FMD outbreak in the UK was observed in 2001, which resulted in the culling of over six million animals. FMD is a notifiable disease throughout the UK and anyone who suspects disease must immediately report it.

Major outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

HPAI more commonly known as bird flu is a severe, highly infectious influenza causing significant morbidity and mortality in susceptible avian species. Avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds, but can be transmissible to humans through prolonged, direct contact with infected birds or contaminated material.

All strains of HPAI are legally notifiable if suspected in the UK, with the biggest outbreak to date being recorded over 2021 to 2023. Anyone who suspects disease in poultry or captive birds must immediately report it.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) monitors FMD and HPAI outbreaks internationally and publishes outbreak assessments considering the risk posed to UK livestock on GOV.UK.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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

- 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 CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Buy and adopt pets responsibly:** make sure they have been imported legally
- ✓ **Vaccinate livestock** where possible
- ✓ **Wash your hands** after feeding wild birds or livestock.

DURING

- ✓ **Avoid contact with wild animals** especially ones you suspect might be sick
- ✓ **Register livestock and birds** when asked to do so and follow relevant guidance
- ✓ **Report any sick or dead animals you suspect might have a disease** – including wild animals, or animals you own by calling the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 03000 200 301
- ✓ **Report dead wild birds** by calling DEFRA on 03459 33 55 77.

AFTER

- ✓ **Keep up to do date with local and national news**, and from your council about any ongoing restrictions for animals.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

We work together to plan for:

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



Section 2

Natural and Environmental Hazards

Natural hazards are extreme natural events, such as storms, droughts, and flooding.

Climate change is bringing increasingly extreme weather events, causing a surge in natural disasters. In the UK, we are now experiencing these changes with hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters. The increased likelihood of natural hazards caused by climate change requires communities to be more prepared to lessen the impact of these events.

Environmental hazards are events that threaten the natural environment, such as pollution, that can have an adverse effect on human and animal health. Examples of environmental hazards can include, maritime pollution or major fires spreading from large disposal sites. Environmental hazards can be any type of pollutant, pesticide, heavy metals, and industrial chemicals.

These hazards may not be immediately life-threatening but eventually may lead to the deterioration of human health. It is imperative that these risks are identified early, spreading awareness amongst our community.

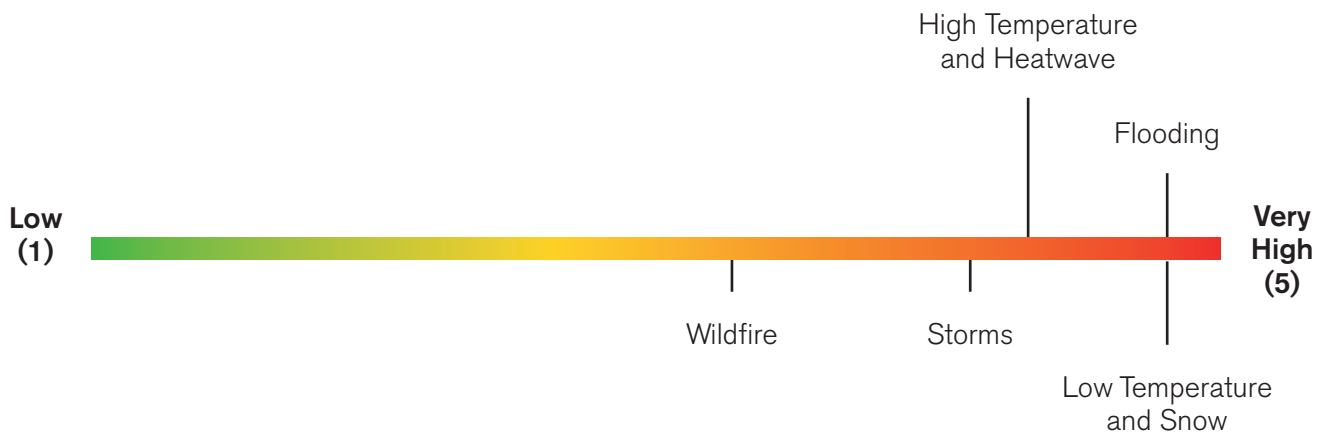
The Sun is always ejecting magnetic fields, radiation, particles and matter into space and if they are directed towards Earth can interact with the Earth's magnetic field to produce a variety of effects, including the Aurora Borealis which is better known as the Northern Lights.

If a severe space weather event were to take place impacts that could be seen may include electricity and telecommunications blackouts, loss of, or disruption to satellites such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), and disruption to aviation or rail transport.

In May 2024, a geomagnetic storm led to High Frequency communications used by aircraft and on GPS. Satellite operations were affected and there were impacts on power systems in New Zealand and North America.

The Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre issues Space Weather alerts to vulnerable sectors to give them advanced warning of an event arriving.

These risk ratings are formulated based on their likelihood and impact in Sussex. They have been assessed locally by the SRF Risk Working Group, in conjunction with the national rating for each risk.



Climate Change

Although identified as a chronic risk, climate change is an overarching factor that increases the likelihood and severity of many of the acute risks outlined in the CRR. Climate change means that extreme weather incidents are becoming more common and more severe. It refers to a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures.

Climate projections show that over the coming decades we will face an increased risk of climate change impacts including:

- extreme rainfall, leading to more frequent and severe floods
- heat waves
- drought
- rise in sea levels and tidal surges
- storms
- wildfires

SRF partners are working together to understand the wider impacts of climate change with the aim of adapting plans and responses accordingly.

The UK average surface temperature has already warmed by 1.2°C since the pre-industrial period, and is predicted to warm further by mid-century, even under an ambitious national decarbonisation plan. The impact of climate change on the intensity and frequency of some climate and weather extreme events is already being observed globally, and these impacts are predicted to worsen in the future.

Climate change adaptation is a priority to government, exemplified by the UK being one of the first nations in the world to enshrine climate adaptation into law within the Climate Change Act. Climate change can also contribute to longer-term changes to water availability, as well as permanent and irreversible changes such as rising sea-levels and alterations to natural habitats and growing conditions.

To find out more about Climate Change and what you can do to help in your community visit [Climate change explained – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained)

(www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained)



Wildfire

A recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that “it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land.”

Such hotter, drier weather has increased the scale, intensity, and frequency of destructive wildfires in many regions worldwide. Wildfires significantly impact people, ecosystems, and the climate. They affect air quality, impact forests, savannahs, and grasslands, and create hazards for the people and infrastructure surrounding them.

Wildfires are an unplanned, unwanted and uncontrolled fire in an area of combustible vegetation. Causes of such fire can be natural, from human activity, or from prescriptive or experimental burns.

There are usually two fire seasons, the main one in spring and a secondary one in mid-late summer. Most wildfires occur in grasslands and broadleaved woodlands although, in terms of the size of area, heathlands, moorlands and grasslands present the largest burnt areas. The intensity of most UK wildfires is usually low to moderate.

HISTORY

August 2022 saw Fire and Rescue services across Sussex urging the public to be vigilant and use flammable materials responsibly after a series of wildfires in Houghton, Fishbourne and Walberton.

As of October 2022, more than 20,000 hectares of land had been lost due to wildfires in the United Kingdom. In the past decade, forest and wildland fires have become more prevalent in the country, with the most devastating fire season being the one in 2019.

Response costs alone are estimated at £55 million a year, and up to £1 million for a large moorland fire.

IN SUSSEX

Sussex has a wide array of green spaces, grassland, and forests. All of these are vulnerable to wildfires both from extreme heat, and human activity.

Vulnerability is increased during Spring and again in Summer after long periods of high temperatures. Dry vegetation and windy conditions during these times provide fuel for fires. Wildfires are not limited to known hotspots - heathlands, coniferous plantations and agricultural crops found throughout the county are also at risk of wildfires.



RISK IMPACTS

- Damage to ecosystems, resulting in widespread deaths of plants and animals
- Increased risk to people's lives, as well as worsening air quality, which exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular conditions of those who inhale smoke
- Economic costs of rebuilding areas after damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

CONSEQUENCES

- Injury to and/or loss of human life
- Additional health impacts from smoke inhalation including irritation, decreased lung function and other lung diseases
- Destruction to ecosystems and habitats within the UK
- Damage to property
- Local and national economic impacts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Avoid open fires** and barbecues in the countryside
- ✓ **Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands**, sunlight shining through glass can start a fire.

DURING

- ✓ **Alert others by shouting: 'HELP FIRE!'**
- ✓ **Dial 999 immediately** - if possible, when speaking to emergency services estimate the size of the fire and give a map reference if possible or landmark - you can also use apps like What3Words
- ✓ **Don't tackle fires yourself**, leave it to the professionals
- ✓ **Follow local Fire & Rescue Service Advice**
- ✓ **If you are in your car**, close all windows and vents.

AFTER

- ✓ **If you feel unwell after the fire**, seek medical attention.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Consideration of weather forecasts when an extended period of hot weather is expected, and the Fire Severity Index (now provided by Natural England) to inform and issue early communications
- Developing local knowledge, Site Specific Risk Information and liaison with landowners for effective prevention and response to wildfires
- Dedicated training exercises, regional collaboration, operational planning and targeted prevention messaging
- Informed approach through national strategy for managing wildfire risk developed by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)
- Working closely with partner agencies through the SRF to ensure they are kept informed and supported around wildfire risks.



Coastal Flooding

Coastal flooding occurs when high tides, strong winds and large waves combine. During very large storms a significant number of people along the south coast could be affected by the rapid onset of deep, fast flowing water.

Sea walls and shingle beaches help reduce the likelihood of widespread, severe coastal flooding.

Coastal flood risk can never be eliminated entirely. There is always a chance that water levels could overwhelm these assets or cause them to fail. A changing climate means that flood risk is increasing every year.

HISTORY

There have been significant coastal flood events throughout history in Sussex. In October 1999 high tides and winds battered the south coast causing flooding at Pevensey and Selsey.

In March 2008 waves damaged and removed large amounts of shingle on the beach at Medmerry and large areas of a caravan park were flooded.

A further storm during 2012 led to the flooding and evacuation of properties in the Bognor area although the forecast tide levels were not reached.

Most recently a storm surge during 2016 caused flooding 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. However, there is also a transient population who may be less likely to understand local flood risk. 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 the provision of local social care.

Sussex also contributes to the UK's food supplies through farming and agriculture. The salt contamination of agricultural land as a result of coastal flooding 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 Seaford with periodic reconstruction of shingle 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 defence schemes across the county. However, the consequence of flooding, if defences are breached or overtopped, is high.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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.

CONSEQUENCES

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

- Identification of flood risk areas and who and what is at risk
- Production of multi-agency plans which are regularly tested and exercised, 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.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Find out if your property is within the flood risk area** and sign up to flood warnings by phone or text by logging on to the Environment Agency website or calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188
- ✓ **Check your insurance policy** covers you for flooding
- ✓ **If your property is at risk of flooding**, you can buy flood protection equipment
- ✓ **Have supplies in your home** that will enable you to cope for several days if you are unable to evacuate, include medicines and warm & waterproof clothing/footwear
- ✓ **Plan where you will go if you must evacuate** and how you will get there
- ✓ **Identify neighbours who may need assistance** or who may be able to assist you, in case of evacuation.

DURING

- ✓ **Listen and watch your local news** or call Floodline for advice 0345 988 1188
- ✓ **Move people, pets, animals and important items to safety** (upstairs or to higher ground)
- ✓ **Put flood protection equipment in place**
- ✓ **Do not** drive or walk through flood water
- ✓ **Turn off gas, electricity, and water** (if safe to do so) and make sure to take your grab bag with you (see page 8).

AFTER

- ✓ **Check with someone qualified** before turning on your utilities (electricity, gas, water)
- ✓ **Contact your insurance company/ landlord** if you have any flood damage and follow their advice
- ✓ **Take photos of any damage** before you start clearing up and report the flooding to your local council and the Environment Agency
- ✓ **If you are concerned about your water supply or its colour**, contact your water company.

Inland Flooding

Inland flooding is usually caused by excessive rainfall over a short or long period of time. Flooding occurs directly as a result of rising river levels, and in some locations by rising groundwater and river levels.

Inland flooding has the potential to affect large areas and high numbers of people at the same time. In Sussex some river flooding is rapid, with flood waters deep, fast flowing and dangerous. Groundwater flooding tends to occur after prolonged periods of above average rainfall. The flooding is relatively shallow but potentially contaminated by sewage and can affect communities for weeks or months.

As the climate is expected to become warmer and wetter, it may increase the frequency and scale of inland flooding. Many organisations help prepare for and assist in the response to flooding, including Councils, Highways Authorities and water companies.

The Environment Agency helps to reduce the impact of flooding through maintenance and operation of flood risk assets. The Environment Agency also provides a free flood warning service in many locations, for flooding from rivers, coast and groundwater.

HISTORY

In January and February 2014 the UK was seriously affected by flooding. In Thames Valley and Surrey the flood affected thousands of homes, the water supply to 650,000 people was seriously disrupted and a major electricity substation came within inches of flooding which would have led to 750,000 people being without power in the London area.

IN SUSSEX

Prolonged heavy rainfall in the autumn of 2000 caused extensive flooding across Sussex and over 800 properties were affected in Lewes. Recent winters also saw widespread flooding in Sussex.

Many agencies are involved in responding to floods. 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.

FLOOD WARNINGS

The Environment Agency provide free flood warnings in advance of river, coastal and groundwater flooding by phone call, text message or email. To register to receive messages or find out if the Environment Agency offer a service in your area, look on the Environment Agency website or call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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.

CONSEQUENCES

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

- Identification of flood risk areas and who and what is at risk
- Production of multi-agency plans which are regularly tested and exercised, 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.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Find out if your property is within the flood risk area** and sign up to flood warnings by phone or text by logging on to the Environment Agency website or calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188
- ✓ **Check your insurance policy** covers you for flooding
- ✓ **If your property is at risk of flooding**, you can buy flood protection equipment
- ✓ **Have supplies in your home** that will enable you to cope for several days if you are unable to evacuate, include medicines and warm & waterproof clothing/footwear
- ✓ **Plan where you will go if you must evacuate** and how you will get there
- ✓ **Identify neighbours who may need assistance** or who may be able to assist you, in case of evacuation.

DURING

- ✓ **Listen and watch your local news** or call Floodline for advice 0345 988 1188
- ✓ **Move people, pets, animals and important items to safety** (upstairs or to higher ground).
- ✓ **Put flood protection equipment in place**
- ✓ **Do not** drive or walk through flood water
- ✓ **Turn off gas, electricity, and water** (if safe to do so) and make sure to take your grab bag with you (see page 8).

AFTER

- ✓ **Check with someone qualified** before turning on your utilities (electricity, gas, water)
- ✓ **Contact your insurance company/ landlord** if you have any flood damage and follow their advice
- ✓ **Take photos of any damage** before you start clearing up and report the flooding to your local council and the Environment Agency
- ✓ **If you are concerned about your water supply or its colour**, contact your water company.

High Temperatures and Heatwaves

Climate change means that the risk of extreme heat has become more likely in the UK, with this trend expected to continue over the coming decades.

A heatwave is defined as an extended period of hot weather relative to the expected conditions for an area at the time of year. The UK experienced a series of heatwaves in the summer of 2022, with temperatures reaching up to 40°C.

An example of a heatwave would be five consecutive days, with maximum temperatures exceeding 35°C. Temperatures may approach or exceed 40°C in some places. This could result in significant health impacts to the general population, with excess deaths above the number expected in a normal summer.

Extended periods of high temperatures may occasionally cause disruption to transport networks, supply chains, power supplies and water supplies. Social and economic disruption would be likely as everyday behaviours would change, including working patterns and levels of productivity. Other hazards are very likely to occur concurrently with, or immediately after, the heatwave, including flooding from severe thunderstorms, poor air quality, drought and wildfires.

The Met Office National Severe Weather Warnings Service provides warnings for extreme heat up to seven days ahead and the UKHSA provides Heat-Health Alerts which highlight the potential impacts from extreme heat, especially on the most vulnerable people in our communities.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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
- An increased risk of wildfires.

CONSEQUENCES

- Hot weather can place a strain on water and energy networks, road and rail transport, and health and fire services.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans to manage the impact of severe weather events including referencing the UKHSA Cold Weather and Heatwave plans
- Provisions in place to support in extreme heat and cold weather e.g. via Library Services. These include cold rooms and warm spaces.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke**, and what to do to reduce them
- ✓ **Consider modifying your home to keep it cool**, such as installing external shutters, blinds, or growing plants to shade south facing windows
- ✓ **Contact your water and power suppliers** to see if you're eligible to be put on Priority Service Registers (see page 9)
- ✓ **If a period of hot weather is forecast, prepare your vehicle** by checking your tyres, fluid levels, battery, and air conditioning, and pack water bottles in your car boot in case of a breakdown.

DURING

- ✓ **Check the weather forecasts and warnings** for heat health and air pollution forecasts in your area. Air pollution can become worse during hot weather and can cause problems for people with asthma and other breathing problems
- ✓ **Keep out of the sun at the hottest time of the day** – this is between 11am and 3pm
- ✓ **Plan physical activities** – exercising or walking your dog at cooler times of the day such as morning or evening
- ✓ **Drink plenty of fluids** and if you go out take water with you.

- ✓ **Check your route for any disruption before travelling** and make sure you carry plenty of bottled water
- ✓ **Keep your home cooler** by closing windows and curtains in rooms that face the sun
- ✓ **Wear lightweight loose-fitting light-coloured clothes** and cover up if you go outside to protect your skin
- ✓ **Wear suitable clothing** such as a hat and sunglasses, seek shade and use SPF30 sunscreen or above
- ✓ **Check on family, friends, and neighbours who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell**, and if you are at higher risk ask them to do the same for you. If you are worried about your own or someone else's health contact NHS 111.

AFTER

- ✓ **Make sure any vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe and well** – provide them with any help they may need
- ✓ **Report damage or problems with the water or power supplies** to your landlord or relevant providers.

Low Temperatures and Snow

Winters with low temperatures and heavy snowfall pose a significant threat to human welfare, essential services, and the economy.

In late February and early March 2018, the UK experienced a spell of severe winter weather with very low temperatures and significant snowfall. This event became known as “The Beast from the East” in the media and led to widespread impacts across the UK, including disruption to transport services, school closures and power cuts.

The Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service provides warnings for snow and ice up to seven days ahead. These warnings enable individuals and organisations to plan for and

mitigate the potential impacts ahead of the arrival of ice or snow. The UKHSA run an impact-based Cold Weather Alert System over the winter. The alerts will be issued by the UKHSA in collaboration with the Met Office, and users can register online to receive alerts.

The UKHSA launched the Adverse Weather and Health Plan (AWHP) in April 2023 as part of a commitment under the National Adaptation Plan to bring together and improve existing guidance on weather and health. The AWHP brings together the previous Heatwave Plan for England, first published in 2004, and the Cold Weather Plan for England.



RISK IMPACTS

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

CONSEQUENCES

- Road and travel disruptions
- Damage and disruption to basic utilities
- These have a knock-on consequence to, individuals, businesses, and the ability for organisations to deliver essential functions to the community.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans to manage the impact of severe weather events including referencing the UKHSA Cold Weather and Heatwave plans
- Provisions in place to support in extreme heat and cold weather e.g. via Library Services. These include cold rooms and warm spaces.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Check you have enough emergency supplies** of food and medication.
- ✓ **Get your home weather prepared.** Make sure you have enough insulation around your water tank(s), loft and any external water pipes. Check you have de-icer, salt/grit, and the necessary tools to keep your home safe and clear of snow and ice
- ✓ **Contact your water and power suppliers** to see if you're eligible to be put on the Priority Service Registers (see page 9).

DURING

- ✓ **Keep up to date with the latest weather forecast** by watching or listening to the news
- ✓ **Keep your home warm** - heat rooms you spend the most time in such as your bedroom and living room to at least 18 °C (65°F)
- ✓ **Check on others that may be more vulnerable**, such as elderly relatives and neighbours.

- ✓ **Do what you can to stay active and warm indoors**
- ✓ **If you need to travel - check your route before you leave** and make sure your vehicle is prepared for the weather conditions including making sure your tyres have adequate tread and air pressure and that you have a blanket, food and drink in case you break down
- ✓ **Make sure your phone is charged**, and you have a blanket, food and drink in case you break down
- ✓ **If you are worried about your own or someone else's health**, contact your local pharmacist, GP, or NHS 111.

AFTER

- ✓ **Make sure vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe and well** – provide them with any help they may need
- ✓ **Report any damage or problems to your landlord or your utility providers** and have qualified professionals handle any repairs or inspections if needed
- ✓ **Restock your emergency supplies.**

Storms

Climate change has already increased the risk of certain types of extreme weather in the UK, with evidence suggesting that the frequency and intensity of storms is likely to continue to increase in the future.

The UK has experienced several severe storms over the last few years, including Storm Eunice in 2022, which brought gusts in excess of 100mph. The impacts of the storm across the UK included three fatalities, school closures, power cuts and nationwide cancellations of transport services.

The Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service provides warnings for severe weather (including wind) up to seven days ahead of it affecting the UK. This service also gives advance warning of storms and enables individuals and organisations to plan and mitigate against the potential impacts ahead of the severe weather.

RISK IMPACTS

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



CONSEQUENCES

- Road and travel disruptions
- Damage and disruption to basic utilities
- 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 ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Production of multi-agency plans to manage the impact of severe weather events including referencing the UKHSA Cold Weather and Heatwave plans
- Provisions in place to support in extreme heat and cold weather e.g. via Library Services. These include cold rooms and warm spaces.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Check the weather forecasts** for information about weather by watching and listening to the news
- ✓ **Know who your power, water, and phone providers are** and how to contact them if there is an outage
- ✓ **Contact your power suppliers** to see if you're eligible to be put on Priority Service Registers (see page 9)
- ✓ **Check you have food, fuel, batteries, and medication**
- ✓ **Check you have the right level of insurance cover** for your property and possessions and keep a list of essential contacts accessible
- ✓ **Secure doors, windows, and loose outside objects** such as garden furniture, bins, plant pots, and trampolines
- ✓ **Park vehicles in a garage if possible**, or move away from trees, walls, and fences.

DURING

- ✓ **If you must travel**, allow extra time, check with travel operators first, and adhere to 'Do Not Travel' notices
- ✓ **Check on those who might need extra help** such as elderly relatives and neighbours
- ✓ **Don't go outside unless absolutely necessary** – if you do go outside try not to walk too close to buildings, fences, or along sea fronts, beaches, or cliffs
- ✓ **If you get in trouble at the coast**, contact the emergency services by dialling 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

AFTER

- ✓ **Be careful not to touch** any electrical or telephone cables that have been blown down or are still hanging
- ✓ **Do not walk too close to walls, buildings, and trees** as they could have been weakened
- ✓ **Make sure that any vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe** and help them make arrangements for any repairs
- ✓ **Take photos and report any damage or problems from storms** to your landlord or gas, electricity and water providers. Have qualified professionals handle and repairs or inspections
- ✓ **Restock any emergency supplies.**

Section 3

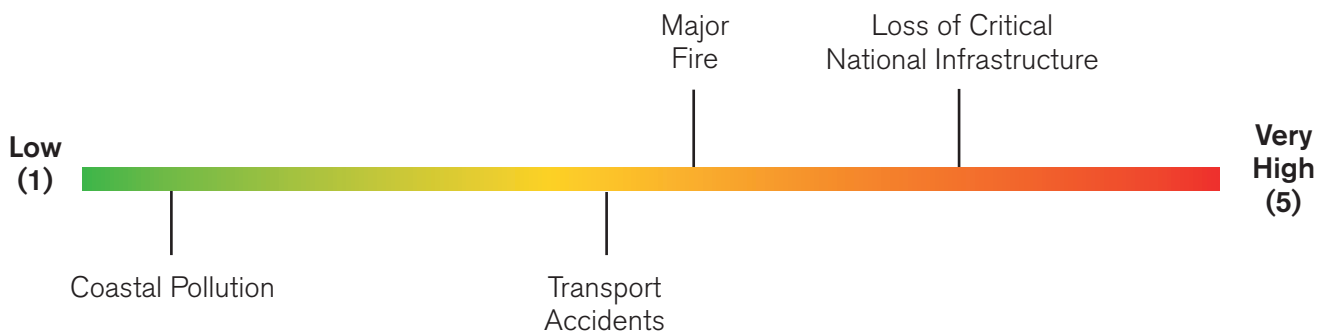
Accidents and System Failures

Accidents and System Failures includes industrial and urban accidents, releases of hazardous materials and major transport accidents, as well as institutional and infrastructure failures.

A system failure or accident is an unanticipated interaction of multiple failures, commonly caused

by human error. This could include loss of critical infrastructure such as gas and electricity, or large-scale transport accidents. These types of incidents can have wide-reaching effects in our communities, as well as impairing the response of our emergency services. Preparation and identification of vulnerable communities is imperative during an accident and system failure.

These risk ratings are formulated based on their likelihood and impact in Sussex. They have been assessed locally by the SRF Risk Working Group, in conjunction with the national rating for each risk.





Major Fire

Major fires are a considerable threat across the UK that can be caused by infrastructure incidents, extreme natural events (such as lightning), malicious activity and accidents (such as electricity faults). A fire in a care home, hospital or a high-rise residential building could result in significant loss of life or injury.

HISTORY

Recent events such as the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, illustrate the devastating effects a major fire can have in a residential building. Extended periods of high temperatures in July 2022 caused several fires to spread in and around London. In addition to adverse weather, the increasing use of lithium batteries has caused an estimated £158m damages to fire services and waste operators. A key example of this is the Aberdeen recycling centre fire, which took place in July 2022, requiring over 100 firefighters to tackle the blaze.

SUSSEX

In East and West Sussex, there are approximately 400 buildings that have been identified as “high rise”. As required by legislation, all buildings, including high rise buildings, must have a recorded fire risk assessment carried out to identify, remove, or reduce any significant fire risks found. In addition, emergency procedures must be produced and informed to those who occupy these buildings.

A major fire spread throughout the Royal Albion Hotel on Brighton Seafront in July 2023. That led to 100 residents having to be evacuated and the eventual demolition of part of the historic hotel.

Within domestic premises, occupants should regularly check their smoke alarms and ensure no candles or open flames are left unattended. In addition, continuity plans should be put in place to ensure that any significant disruption caused by a fire is mitigated as soon as possible, and as effectively as possible, to minimise the impact on the community.

In March 2023, a major fire broke out at the Angel Hotel located in Midhurst. The hotel was being used as a temporary shelter for refugees. As a result, new accommodation had to be found for all the refugees. Unfortunately, the fire not only destroyed the hotel, a 400-year-old heritage-listed building, but it also caused damage to nearby residential properties and businesses. Fire and Rescue resources were deployed over a period of several days to manage the incident. The fire had a major impact on the local community as well as the economy since the hotel was situated on the high street. Closure of the main road that runs through the town resulted in significant transportation issues for the community.

In April 2019, a fire destroyed a Household Waste and Recycling Facility in Westhampnett, Chichester. The incident lasted for several days resulting in impacts on the community. The facility was destroyed, and it required a significant amount of time and money to rebuild it, causing major disruptions to the waste management processes for Chichester and the surrounding areas.



RISK IMPACTS

- Disruption to local transport
- Extended pressures on local housing to provide residents with temporary housing
- Cost of rebuilding homes, businesses, and infrastructure.

CONSEQUENCES

- Significant loss of life, or serious injury
- Damage to property
- Impact on physical and mental health.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Working with all sectors to ensure those responsible for fire safety within buildings are meeting their duties under regulatory frameworks
- Offering advice to anyone who needs it in relation to fire safety and business continuity
- Conducting audits on those premises that are deemed to have the highest fire risk to life, property, the community and the environment.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Fit smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** (at least one on each floor of your home) and test them weekly
- ✓ Have an **escape route** planned
- ✓ **Don't overload plug sockets** and check for dangerous or loose wiring and turn off appliances when not in use
- ✓ **Don't leave food cooking unattended**
- ✓ **Avoid open fires and barbecues** in the countryside
- ✓ **Don't leave bottles or glass in woodlands**, sunlight shining through glass can start a fire
- ✓ Check if you are **eligible for a home fire safety visit** from your local Fire and Rescue Service.

DURING

- ✓ If you are in a building that is on fire, **get out, stay out and call 999 immediately**
- ✓ **Don't tackle fires yourself**, leave it to the professionals
- ✓ **If there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer** while you make your way out. If you can, close doors behind you to stop the fire spreading
- ✓ Alert others by shouting: **'HELP FIRE!'**
- ✓ **If your clothes are on fire – lie down and roll around** to make it harder for the fire to spread.

AFTER

- ✓ **Only enter the property when you are told it is safe**
- ✓ **If you feel unwell after the fire, seek medical attention**
- ✓ **Take photos of the damage** and contact your insurance provider and letting agent or landlord
- ✓ **If you can't stay at home, arrange for doors and windows to be boarded up**, and find temporary accommodation until it's safe to return to your home.

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, and 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

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 contamination. Across the Southeast of England, approximately 70% of our water supply comes from groundwater and in some areas in Sussex such as Brighton, 100% of the population rely on the Brighton chalk aquifer for their water supply. Therefore, contamination of groundwater could have a major impact.

Depending on the severity of the incident a multi-agency emergency may be declared.

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.

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.

RISK IMPACTS

- 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.



CONSEQUENCES

- 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 ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Working with the Utility Companies to manage the impact of supply interruptions
- Production of multi-agency plans to manage the impact of long-term utilities outages
- Working with the Utility Companies to identify vulnerable people who will need special treatment in the event of a utilities outage
- Running multi-agency exercises to test capabilities in the event of a prolonged utilities outage.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Know where the shut off points are for your utilities**, in case of gas and water emergencies
- ✓ **Know who provides your electricity, water, gas, phone and internet** and keep their contact details on hand
- ✓ **Contact your water and power suppliers to see if you're eligible** to be put on Priority Services Registers (see page 9)
- ✓ **Make a list of emergency numbers you might need**, for example, family, friends, your local council, and your GP
- ✓ **Have backup power sources**, like a battery-powered torch or a windup radio
- ✓ **Store essentials at home** like bottled water, canned food, and basic medical supplies
- ✓ **Keep your phone charged** and consider getting a portable charger pack
- ✓ **Have a grab bag prepared** with essential items like clothing and medicines in case you need to leave the house in an emergency

DURING

- ✓ **Report outages to your service providers** right away
- ✓ If the power is out, **use a battery-powered or wind-up radio** to find out when it will come back on
- ✓ To **save battery life on your phone** only use it when necessary
- ✓ **Use torches or battery-powered lights instead of candles** which can be a fire risk
- ✓ **Follow safety instructions** from your service providers or local authorities.

AFTER

- ✓ **Check with your service providers for updates** and to find out when services will be fully restored
- ✓ If needed make sure **qualified professionals handle any repairs or inspections**
- ✓ **Restock any supplies**
- ✓ **Report any damage or problems** caused by the outage to the relevant authorities or providers.

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

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 2015 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 'Competent Authority'; namely the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency 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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ZONES

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

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

CONSEQUENCES

- 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.

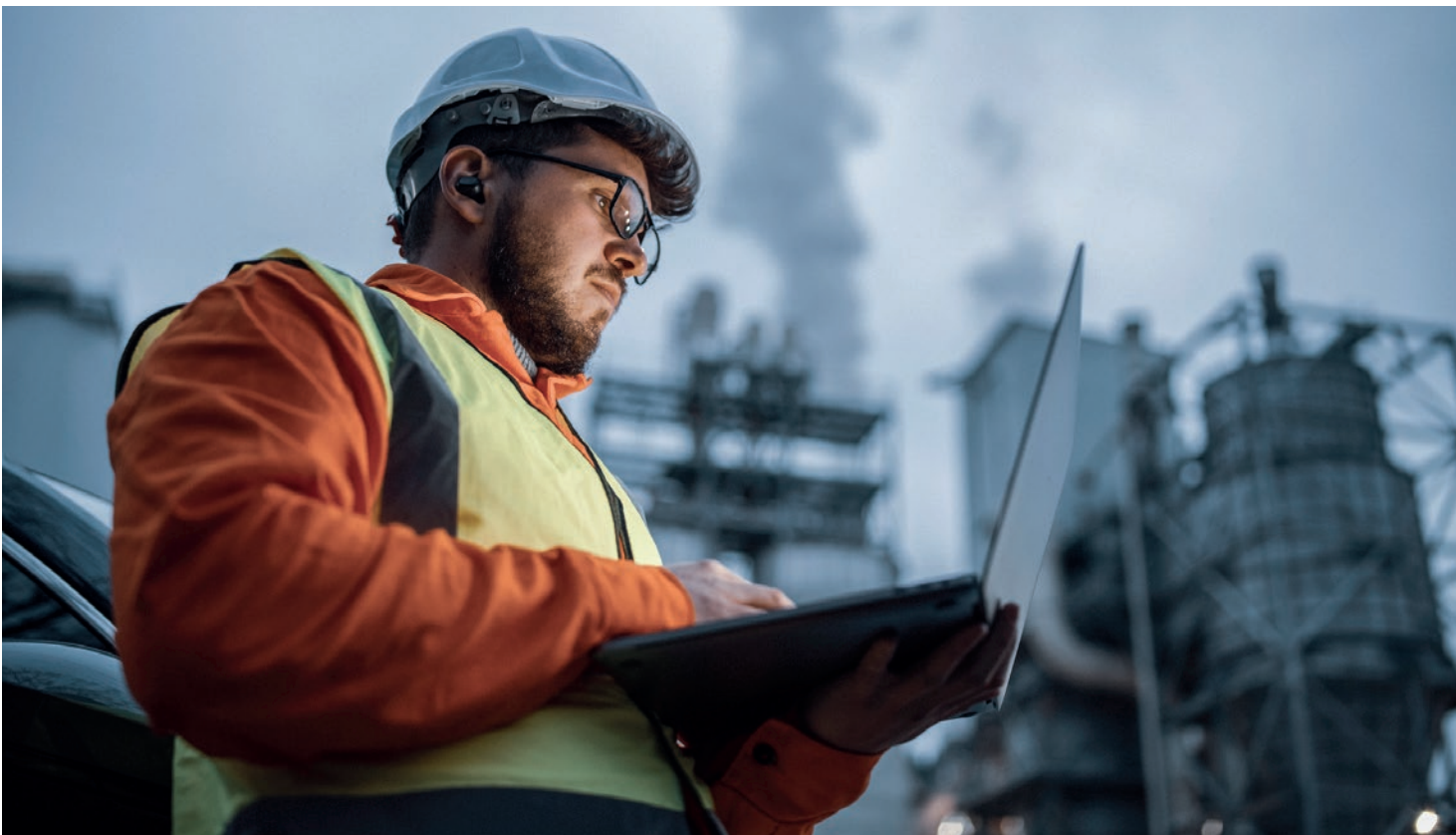
WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Working directly with site operators who manage particularly hazardous sites, to minimise the risk impacts
- Identification of ways and means of communicating with the public that live near to hazardous sites
- Supporting local communities in proximity to hazardous sites to develop their own emergency plans.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



- ✓ **Be aware of potential risks** 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.



Transport Accidents

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 Local Authority Highways departments, whilst the roads which form part of the UK's strategic road network (the A23, A27, M23) are managed by National Highways.

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. There are a number of train operating companies that interlink and provide a rail service to Sussex. 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 74 countries for around 44 million passengers a year on short- and long-haul point-to-point services.

The flight paths that serve the Airport cover several 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.

RISK IMPACTS

- 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 the local environment
- Possible damage to buildings or infrastructure.



CONSEQUENCES

- Impact on local businesses through delayed or failed deliveries
- Delays in emergency services reaching people
- Delays in the transportation of materials and goods that are critical to the local supply chain
- Implications for other local and onward transport networks.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Working with national transport companies to plan for transport incidents
- The various Highways departments work alongside the National Highways to keep all major county roads accessible during times of severe weather.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Be aware of travel conditions before leaving** on any journey
- ✓ Make sure your **vehicle is insured and kept in good condition** with adequate tyre treads and pressures
- ✓ **Keep emergency contacts on hand**, for example phone numbers for breakdown services, or family members
- ✓ **Plan for your trips and allow extra time** for possible delays
- ✓ **Learn the emergency procedures** for public transport
- ✓ **Carry a small, basic first aid kit with you**, or in your vehicle
- ✓ **Avoid non-essential journeys** during times of adverse weather
- ✓ **When driving, abide by the rules of the road**, adhere to speed limits, and drive safely
- ✓ **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.

DURING

- ✓ **If you're involved in or see an accident, check for injuries** (to yourself and other people) and call the emergency services on 999
- ✓ **Stay calm and follow any instructions** from the emergency services
- ✓ **Don't move injured people unless they are still in danger** – moving them may make their injuries worse
- ✓ **Stay clear of the accident area if possible**, so emergency services can do their job
- ✓ **If you're driving, use your hazard lights or hand signals to alert other drivers** of an accident or hazard.

AFTER

- ✓ **Get medical help for injuries** even if they only appear to be minor
- ✓ **Report the accident to the authorities** and provide any additional details they ask for
- ✓ **Adjust your travel plans to avoid the affected areas** if the accident or incident is still ongoing
- ✓ **Contact your insurance company** and start a claim for damage to your vehicle or your personal items, if necessary.

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 damage to 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 late 2025 early 2026 the Sussex coast has been hit by pollution incidents including millions of tiny plastic bio-beads washing up across the coast. At the same time, shipping containers lost at sea have washed ashore, scattering cargo along the beaches.

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 minimised.



RISK IMPACTS

- 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

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

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

Production of multi-agency plans to effectively clean up any spills 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 impact of pollution from ships and offshore installations
- Promoting high standards of safety at sea.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Only swim in designated bathing water locations.** These are areas where the water is safe to swim including specific beaches and rivers.

DURING

- ✓ **Follow the advice of the emergency services**
- ✓ **Co-operate with organisations** during any clean-up operation
- ✓ **Report locations where pollution has washed ashore** or animals have been affected
- ✓ **Avoid temptation to pick up any cargo** which has been washed up
- ✓ **Avoid handling any wild animals that may have been affected** but note location and report to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Section 4

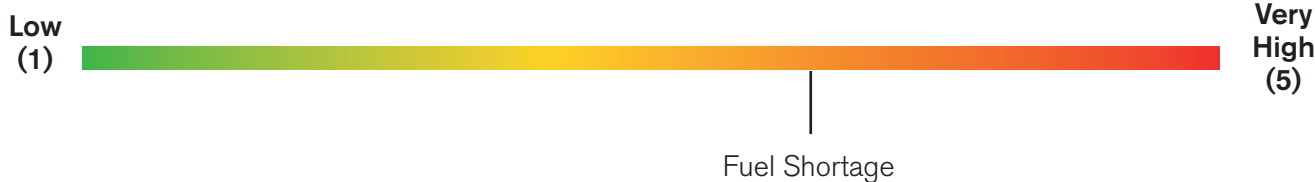
Societal

Societal covers risks which have their roots in or clear specific impacts on wider society. This includes industrial action and public disorder.

Industrial action occurs when trade union members are in dispute with their employers and this conflict cannot be resolved through negotiations. It can take the form of strike,

where workers withdraw their labour for a period of time, or action short strike (also known as 'working to rule'). Both forms of action can lead to disruption affecting critical services or infrastructure, such as a fuel shortage. This can have a knock-on effect on public behaviour, with the likelihood of public disorder increasing.

These risk ratings are formulated based on their likelihood and impact in Sussex. They have been assessed locally by the SRF Risk Working Group, in conjunction with the national rating for each risk.





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 cross the country.

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

In September 2021 reports of a shortage of HGV drivers, and additional impacts from COVID-19 led to drivers to panic buying of fuel.

IN SUSSEX

Sussex covers a huge geographical area. People and products travel many miles on a daily basis. Many essential services including on adequate fuel supplies.



RISK IMPACTS

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

CONSEQUENCES

- Inability to provide essential services to vulnerable individuals
- Local and national economic impact.

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.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Plan – familiarise yourself with alternative travel options** including public transport services operating in your area
- ✓ **Maintain your vehicle so that it is as fuel efficient as possible.** Motoring organisations such as the AA & RAC have top tips to help you improve your car's fuel economy
- ✓ If you run a business or provide an essential service, **plan how you would continue to operate if you were not able to purchase fuel.**

DURING

- ✓ **Listen and watch local and national news for guidance** on what to do during any fuel shortage
- ✓ **Plan before making any journeys –** ensure you take the shortest route, avoid congested areas, and have enough fuel to complete your whole journey
- ✓ **Limit your vehicular travel as much as possible,** cut back on non-essential trips by combining errands, using public transport, sharing lifts, walking, cycling, and working from home where possible
- ✓ **Be alert: during fuel shortages criminals may try to steal fuel** from homes, vehicles, and businesses.

AFTER

- ✓ Look at ways to **reduce your own or your business' dependency** on fuel
- ✓ **Review options** you could take during future fuel shortages.



Cyber Security

A cyber-attack is any type of offensive manoeuvre employed by nation-states, individuals, groups, or organisations that targets computer information systems, infrastructures, computer networks, and/or personal computer devices by various means of malicious acts usually originating from an anonymous source that either steals, alters, or destroys a specified target by ‘hacking’ into a susceptible system.

Cyber-attacks can range from installing spyware/malware onto a PC which create viruses to hinder the PC’s operation, to attempts to destroy the infrastructure of entire nations.

IN THE UK

The NHS fell victim to a global ‘malware’ attack in 2017. This led to some NHS computers being infected with the virus and some services being affected by organisations taking preventative actions such as shutting down some computer

systems. Nationally, this resulted in some operations and appointments being cancelled. In Sussex, the NHS worked hard to minimise the impact on patient care and disruption was kept to a minimum during the incident.

Cyber-attacks have the potential to cause widespread disruption to critical services and systems. SRF partners are working together, and with national groups, to better understand the risks and how to mitigate them.

RISK IMPACTS

- Disruption to normal business activity
- Personal information held on computers may be misused
- Viruses that may infiltrate I.T. systems.



CONSEQUENCES

- Impact on local businesses through delayed or failed deliveries, services or paying of invoices
- Delays in emergency services reaching people
- Possible irreparable damage to your business I.T. infrastructure
- Personal data may be stolen that affects individuals, including the theft of funds.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Working with HM Government and the NPSA (National Protective Security Authority) to ensure business continuity
- Ensuring our organisations I.T. infrastructures are constantly monitored for malware and ransomware attacks and other forms of hacking
- Briefing staff on I.T. network and security protocols to minimise the risk of attacks.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Turn on 2-Factor Authentication ('2FA')** on all online accounts
- ✓ **Use a strong and different password for each account.** That way, if one gets hacked, the others stay safe
- ✓ **Make sure your devices have up-to-date antivirus software** to block cyber-attacks
- ✓ **Keep your apps and software updated** and turn on automatic update
- ✓ **Back-up your files automatically** so you don't lose them
- ✓ Make sure your **social media privacy settings are up to date**
- ✓ **Be careful with emails and texts.** If you don't know the person, don't open any links or attachments. Even if it looks like it's from someone you know but seems strange, check with them first, particularly if they're asking you to take action
- ✓ **Be careful what you open.** Ensure it's from a trusted source (a secure HTTPS site)
- ✓ **The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides cyber security advice** to protect you and your family, and the technology you rely on – visit Cyber Aware (www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware) to find out more.

DURING

- ✓ If you think you've been the **victim of a cybercrime, tricked or scammed, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040** (textphone 0300 123 2050) or report online at www.actionfraud.police.uk
- ✓ Make sure to **let your friends and family know** to avoid them falling victim of hacking as well.

AFTER

- ✓ **Try to figure out how the cyber-attack happened** and what was affected
- ✓ **On a safe device, change your passwords**, and logout of all other devices from the settings area of the affected apps
- ✓ If your **email address was hacked, ensure you check for any 'auto forwarding rules'**. Criminals add these to retain access to your inbox even when you change passwords
- ✓ **Reset the device and restore your files** from backups if needed
- ✓ **Update your security settings** to stop it from happening again.

Terrorism

Terrorism presents a serious and sustained threat to the United Kingdom and UK interests abroad. These threats may come in the form of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons, or could even be a cyber-attack.

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.

IN SUSSEX

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

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

RISK IMPACTS

- Risks to life
- Effect on vulnerable people
- Threats to 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
- The capability to manage mobility and health issues when evacuating people from their homes
- Requirement for temporary shelter for all those affected by the emergency.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Ensuring there are no communication barriers when getting emergency information out to the public
- Working together using established principles and plans to minimise the impact on residents and visitors and enable a return to the new normal
- Ensuring that essential services are maintained during emergencies
- Identifying those people in the affected area who are most vulnerable
- Providing assistance to people travelling through the county on the road or rail network if they are involved in an emergency.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE PREPARED?



BEFORE

- ✓ **Be vigilant** – when in public places keep a watch for suspicious behaviour, vehicles, or packages
- ✓ **Report** – if you see anything you are suspicious of report it, in confidence, to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 or in an emergency to your local police force using 999
- ✓ **Share a concern** – if you are worried about someone you know being radicalised, trust your instincts and call (in confidence) the ACT Early Support Line on 0800 011 3764. Open daily between 9am and 5pm
- ✓ **Martyn's Law** – There are new national requirements for certain venues and events (often referred to as 'Martyn's Law'). Venue operators should follow advice on ProtectUK.

DURING

If you are caught up in a terror attack you should take the following steps:

- ✓ **RUN** – to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there is nowhere to go, then...

- ✓ **HIDE** – It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. When it is safe to do so...
- ✓ **TELL** – the police by calling 999.

AFTER

- ✓ **Victim Support provides a free 24/7 confidential support line on 0800 168 9111** or via their website in live chat
- ✓ **Childline offers a support service on 0800 1111** providing access to speak to a counsellor
- ✓ **Contact your GP or call NHS 111 for non-emergency medical advice** and mental health support
- ✓ There may be a **charitable fund set up following an attack**, which may provide some support
- ✓ Anyone **directly affected in a terrorist incident can enquire about applying for compensation** via the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority helpline on **0300 003 3601**.

Business Continuity

The CRR 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.

If you own or are responsible for a business, have you considered the impacts of an emergency on your workplace or workforce?

For example, how would your organisation respond to:

- 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?

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 ensure their survival.



5 STEPS TO EFFECTIVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

01 Understand your business

Understand your business

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

02 Risk Assessment

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?

03 Consider resources and needs

Consider the resource needs of each of your business functions

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

04 User-friendly documents

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.

05 Training and testing

Train and test your staff

In activating the continuity plan and the roles and procedures within it.

For further information about Business Continuity Management visit:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/137994/Business_Continuity_Management_Toolkit.pdf

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.

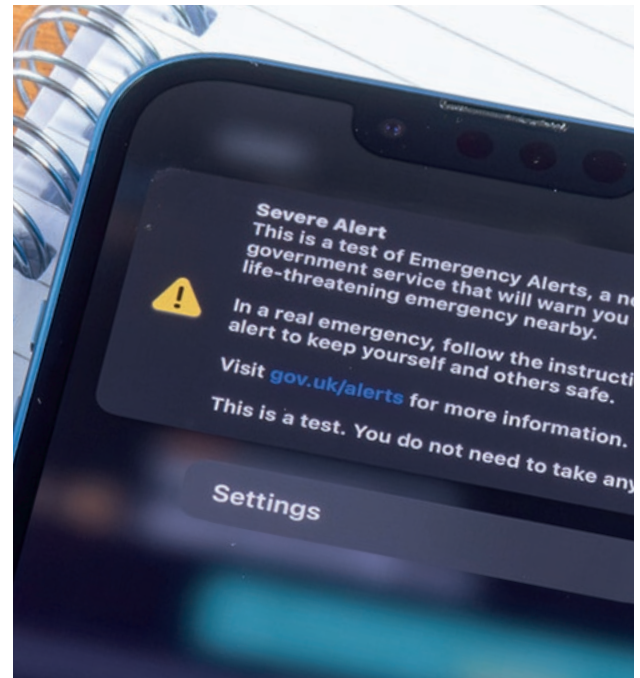
SINGLE MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC

Confusion would be caused if more than one organisation were to plan to warn the public about the same risk, at the same time using different messages. For this reason the various organisations that make up the SRF 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 speak English as a first language. 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:

- Announcements on websites and social media
- Mobilising emergency services crews to go out on foot and knock-on doors
- Media announcements (typically radio and television outlets)
- Automated telephone/e-mail/text/ National alert system
- An Emergency Alert from the UK Government
- Messages to subscribers of free email alerts and e-newsletters sent from local services
- 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
- "Prepare" Campaign (GOV.UK): A major public-facing initiative providing advice on simple steps for households and communities to take to be more prepared for emergencies.

There are also several local and national Government campaigns to help the public understand the risks that are most likely to affect them, and the specific actions they can take to protect themselves during an emergency.

For example:

- **GOV.UK/Prepare** to help you prepare for emergencies, be more informed about hazards, and get involved in activities to support yourself and your community before, during and after an emergency.
- **The 'Run, Hide and Tell' campaign** helps people stay safe in the event of a marauding terrorist attack. (www.protectuk.police.uk/advice-and-guidance/response/run-hide-tell)
- **The 'WeatherReady' campaign** helps individuals, families and communities prepare for and cope with severe weather. (www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready)
- **The 'Cyber Aware' campaign** provides advice on how to stay secure online. (www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware)
- **The Preparing for an Emergency booklet** provides advice on being prepared in advance of an emergency. (www.sussex.police.uk/srf)



Ready together

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

In an emergency, sometimes it's safest to stay indoors but in other cases you may need to evacuate. Be prepared, have a plan, and follow official advice. Always call 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger.

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).

SRF partners work together with BBC Local Radio (and other media outlets) to make sure that they can provide accurate and up-to-date information to keep people fully informed on what to do during any emergency.



PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY

There are several activities that you can undertake to prepare for, prevent, and mitigate the impacts of emergencies. Many of these activities will be helpful across a range of different emergencies:

- **Join the Priority Services Register** for free extra support during a power or water outage, subject to eligibility.
 - **Pack a “just in case” bag** containing a few basics such as a torch, bottled water, warm layers, medicines.
 - **Sign up for first aid training** – courses can provide useful, potentially lifesaving, skills that can be helpful in a variety of emergency situations.
 - **Teach children** about how and when to call the emergency services.
 - Talk to your children and guests about your **home escape plan**.
 - Speak to your children’s school to **find out their procedures** in the event of different emergency scenarios.
 - **Store important documents** (for example, insurance documents and key contact numbers) and important items (for example, medication and identification) in easily accessible locations in case of an emergency or evacuation at short notice. Do not attempt to retrieve these items if the situation makes it dangerous to do so.
 - Know where and how to **turn off water, gas and electricity supplies** in your home.
 - Check that the **right insurance is in place** for your home or business (for example, flood insurance) or travel insurance when planning a trip.
- **Test smoke alarms** weekly
 - Find out about the **evacuation procedures** in your workplace and residential building (rented, high-rise).
 - **Read official advice** on what to do in a marauding terrorist attack or how to report suspicious packages or behaviour.
 - Read advice on how to **stay secure online**.
 - **Join a community group** or social club that is active in emergency preparedness.
 - Sign up to your local authority or local utilities providers’ **vulnerable customer schemes and priority services registers** (if you are eligible).
 - Check if any **elderly or vulnerable neighbours** might need your help in the event of an emergency.
 - Make sure you know how to tune in to your **local radio station**.
 - Be aware of the **UK Government’s Emergency Alerts service** and be prepared to inform others in your local area who may not have received or seen an emergency alert, in the event one is sent. A loud siren-like sound and vibration will accompany the message sent to mobile devices to raise awareness of the hazard or threat. Alerts may also include a URL where further information is contained, and/or a helpline.
 - Sign up to receive **Sussex Alerts**, part of the national Neighbourhood Alert network, to find out what happening in your area.



UK Government



RESPONDING IN AN EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency, you can play a vital role by alerting the emergency services (dialling 999) and by providing first aid, comfort, and support while waiting for the emergency services to arrive.

Depending on the nature of the emergency, those affected may be asked to **'go in, stay in, and tune in'** to local radio stations or check official sources of information online.

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

- A list of useful phone numbers (for example, 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 (for example, tinned food) and a bottle/tin opener, in case you have to remain in your home for several days
- Identification such as passports and driver's licence
- A notebook, pen or pencil
- Baby food
- Insurance documents
- Glasses or contact lenses
- Candles and matches
- Pet food
- Children's toys/activities.

Also, **where it is safe to do so**, check on neighbours and vulnerable people in your community to see if they need any help.

Packing a 'just in case bag', with some of these items, in advance of an emergency can save valuable time when you need it.



LEAVING YOUR HOME IN AN EMERGENCY

In certain situations, you may be asked to leave your home by the emergency services for your own safety. If this happens, leave as quickly and calmly as possible. Delaying or refusing to evacuate may put your life at risk, as well as putting emergency responders in danger if they later have to return to buildings to deliver the evacuation request again.

If you have time, and it is safe to do so, before you evacuate:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows.
- If you leave by car, take a supply of bottled water and blankets with you.
- Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads)
- Tune in to local radio for emergency information, advice and instructions.

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.

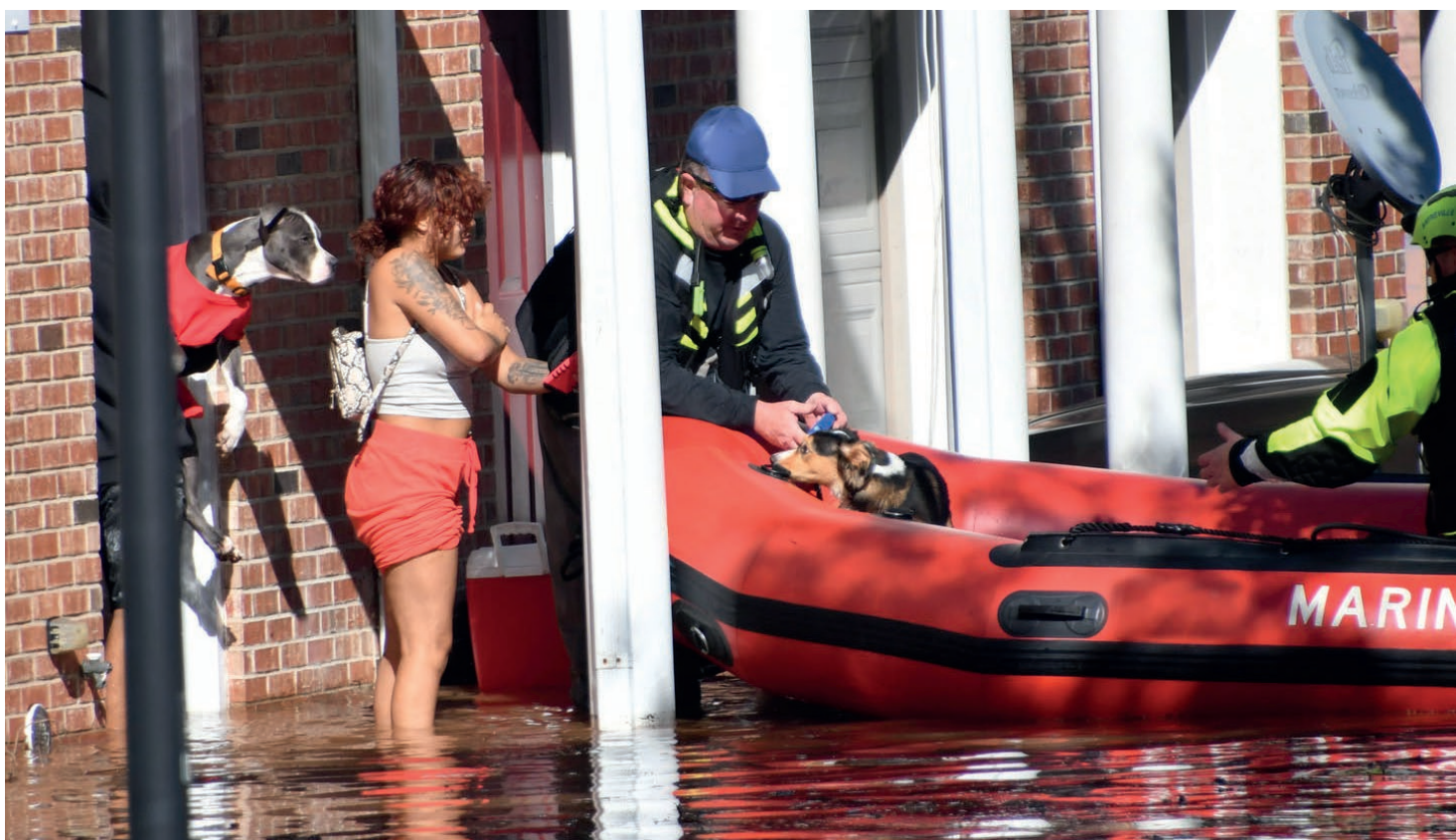
If you wish to participate in the recovery phase of an emergency look out for calls for support from your local authority or national and local charities, to assist with the clean-up or to help others in your community get back on their feet.

As well as providing practical support with community recovery you can also support other individuals affected by the situation, for example by listening to those who want to talk about their experiences.

Look out for persistent signs of distress in your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbours, and if symptoms do not resolve with informal support point them towards professional help:

NHS England » Help and support after a traumatic event

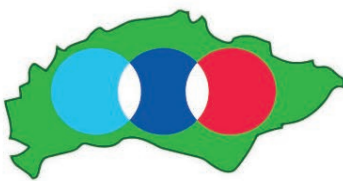
(www.england.nhs.uk/london/our-work/mental-health-support/help-and-support)



Find out more

The CRR is produced by the Sussex Resilience Forum and is contributed to by the following partner agencies:

- Sussex Police
- East Sussex Fire & Rescue
- West 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
- Hastings Borough Council
- Horsham District Council
- Lewes District Council
- Mid Sussex District Council
- Rother District Council
- Wealden District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Worthing Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- NHS England
- UK Health Security Agency
- Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
- Maritime Coast Guard Agency
- Highways England
- British Transport Police
- Utility Companies
- Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations



SUSSEXRESILIENCEFORUM

Further Information

For further information about the Community Risk Register for Sussex, and preparing for an emergency please contact:

SussexResilienceForum@sussex.police.uk

Sussex Resilience Forum, Sussex Police Shared Headquarters,
Church Lane, Malling, Lewes, BN7 2DZ

Visit the SRF webpage at **www.sussex.police.uk/SRF**





SUSSEXRESILIENCEFORUM

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