



**Emergency preparedness and
management of the main risks
in Merseyside**



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THE MERSEYSIDE PROFILE



Merseyside is a multi-cultural and multi-faith community. It is a diverse metropolitan area, with a resident population of just under 1.4 million people. The area consists of 5 local authorities: Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral and is a mix of urban and rural areas.

Merseyside spans 249 square miles (645 km²) of land which border Lancashire (to the north-east), Greater Manchester (to the east), and Cheshire (to the south and south-west); the Irish Sea is to the west. North Wales is across the Dee Estuary. There is a mix of high density urban areas, suburbs, semi-rural and rural locations in Merseyside, but overwhelmingly the land use is urban. It has a focused central business district, formed by Liverpool City Centre, but Merseyside is also a polycentric county with five metropolitan districts, each of which has at least one major town centre and outlying suburbs. The Liverpool Urban Area is the fifth most populous conurbation in England, and dominates the geographic centre of the county, while the smaller Birkenhead Urban Area dominates the Wirral Peninsula in the south.

Following significant investment in Liverpool City Centre, the biggest retail development of its kind in Europe – Liverpool One – was officially opened in 2008. The Port of Liverpool, a barometer for the success of the whole of Merseyside, is the largest freeport zone in the UK and the main UK port for container trade with the USA. A £19 million cruise terminal opened in 2007 and has already led to the berth of several cruise liners and with them, thousands of tourists. Liverpool John Lennon Airport is one of the fastest growing regional airports in Europe.

Despite considerable investment and regeneration within the Merseyside region, there remain pockets of significant deprivation. Merseyside has not been exempt from the recent recession, and some regions remain among the most deprived areas within the UK.



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is designed to inform people about the risks that could occur where they live, so they can think about what they can do to be better prepared in their homes, communities and businesses.

WHO ARE WE?

The aim of the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) is to deliver a single framework for civil protection. Part 1 of the Act establishes a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at a local level. The Merseyside Resilience Forum (MRF) was formed in 2005 in response to the Act and its main function is to ensure the effective delivery of those responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this information to inform contingency planning. It does this collectively producing a Community Risk Register (CRR).

The MRF is a partnership, made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency in the county. The Forum covers the Merseyside Police Force area and includes the emergency services, local authorities, Environment Agency, health agencies, utilities, transport and Health & Safety Executive along with the voluntary agencies.

WHAT DO WE DO?

The MRF's overall purpose is to ensure that there is an appropriate level of preparedness to enable an effective multi-agency response to emergency incidents that may have a significant impact upon the communities of Merseyside.

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

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

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

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

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER?

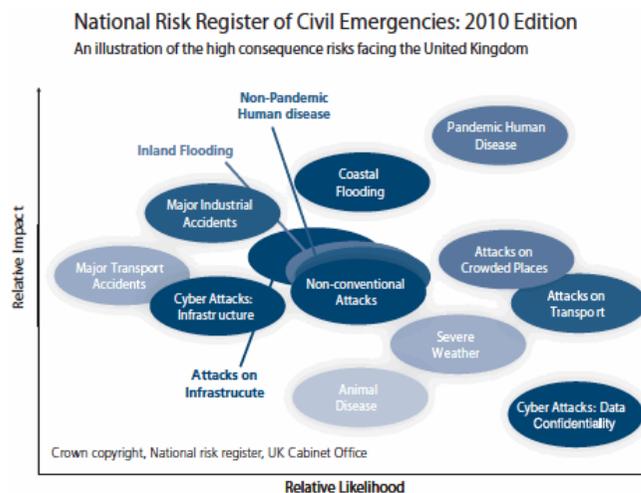
The MRF has to legally produce a CRR to look at the likelihood and impact of a range of hazards happening.

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

Merseyside's CRR provides information on the biggest emergencies that could happen in Merseyside, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the impacts if they do. This includes the impacts to people, their houses, the environment and local businesses.

Looking at all of the risks together can also help the MRF agencies plan their joint response. The CRR aims to help these agencies make decisions on emergency planning work, and will help them develop better relationships whilst considering their capabilities and capacity.

Any gaps identified can then be dealt with appropriately, depending on the priority of the risk. The overall aims of this are to identify the generic capabilities, which are required in response to many of the risks, so we can develop a strong capacity to respond to any incident.



SCOPE OF THE CRR

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

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

The CRR focuses on serious risks that could result in an emergency, as defined as:

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

Source: Civil Contingencies Act (2004)

RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The CRR is put together through a risk management process. This process follows a cycle, and is carried out by the Hazards & Risks Sub-Group – a group of people from the main organisations in the MRF.

RISK CONTEXT

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

RISK IDENTIFICATION

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

RISK ANALYSIS

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

- Likelihood is the probability of an incident occurring related to a hazard or threat;
- Impact is a measure of the severity of the potential harm caused by the hazard or threat, looking at the impacts on health, the economy, the environment and society.

RISK EVALUATION

After the lead organisation has completed the risk assessment, it has to be agreed by the Hazards & Risks Sub-Group before being included in the CRR.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

All risks in the CRR are reviewed continually and changes made as required.

The CRR has a review date showing when the annual comprehensive review is carried out.

The Top 5 Risks for Merseyside are:

Pandemic Infectious Diseases	
Severe Weather	
Flooding	
Loss of Critical Infrastructure	
Environmental Pollution & Industrial Accidents	

PANDEMIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Influenza pandemics are a natural phenomenon that have occurred from time to time for centuries – including 3 times during the 20th century. They present a real and daunting challenge to the economic and social wellbeing of any country, as well as a serious risk to the health of its population. Pandemic influenza is one of the most severe natural challenges likely to affect the UK, but sensible and proportionate preparation and collective action by the government, essential services, businesses, the media, other public, private and voluntary organisations and communities can help to mitigate its effects.

Pandemic influenza emerges as a result of a new flu virus which is markedly different from recently circulating strains. Few - if any - people will have any immunity to this new virus thus allowing it to spread easily and to cause more serious illness. The conditions that allow a new virus to develop and spread continue to exist, and some features of modern society, such as air travel, could accelerate the rate of spread.

ON MERSEYSIDE

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

LEAD AGENCY – PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND



RISK IMPACTS

Past pandemics have varied in scale, severity and consequence, although in general their impact has been much greater than that of even the most severe winter 'epidemic'. Each pandemic is different and, until the virus starts circulating, it is impossible to predict its full effects. As such, it is impossible to forecast the precise characteristics, spread and impact of a new influenza virus strain, however, based on historical information and scientific evidence we are able to predict the possible impacts. In the absence of early or effective interventions, society is also likely to face social and economic disruption, significant threats to the continuity of essential services, lower production levels, shortages and distribution difficulties. Individual organisations may also suffer from the pandemic's impact on business and services.

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Vulnerable people exposed to lower levels of care;
- Longer and more frequent disruptions to essential utilities;
- In some circumstances there may be possible School or Nursery closures;
- 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 DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Keep healthy – a healthy lifestyle will be a great defence against flu and other illnesses;
- Identify a flu friend - somebody who would collect your medication, food and other supplies allowing you to be isolated from the public;
- Keep personal stocks of 'over the counter' cold and flu medication to help relieve your symptoms;
- Know the arrangements for your child's school;
- Look out for, and observe, advice and guidance from the NHS.



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

We work together to exercise and plan for:

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

The individual organisations that make up the MRF each have their own business continuity plans in place to cope in times of staff shortage.

SEVERE WEATHER

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

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

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



ON MERSEYSIDE

Merseyside generally has a temperate maritime climate with typically warm, rather than hot summers, and cool to cold winters. The effect of our west coast location means that weather extremes are sometimes moderated; however, there is a risk of heavy rainfall, snow and strong winds on occasion. Like much of the UK, our weather can be unpredictable, with severe weather most notably tending to affect transport, utilities and communications.

We are unable to reduce the likelihood of severe weather; however, by being prepared for such events we can reduce the impact to ourselves and our communities.

LEAD AGENCY – ON MERSEYSIDE THIS DEPENDS ON THE TYPE AND IMPACTS OF THE WEATHER.

RISK IMPACTS

Storms and Gales

- Danger from windblown objects and from the collapse of structures such as bridges or chimneys;
- Damage to property, roads and phone lines for example;
- Disruption to travel and other daily activities such as taking children to school.

Low Temperatures and Heavy Snow

- Travel disruption;
- Increased risk to the health of vulnerable persons, the old or very young for example;
- Interruption to utility supplies such as electricity, gas and water;
- School and public building closures;
- Disruption to services, such as store deliveries, post.

Heatwave

- An increased number of admissions to hospital and visits to GPs due to sunburn, heat exhaustion, breathing problems;
- Vehicle breakdowns from overheating;
- Road surfaces deteriorating as tarmac begins to melt.

CONSEQUENCES

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

Severe weather affects individuals, the community, businesses and the ability of agencies to deliver essential services to the community.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Listen to weather forecasts and pay attention to any warnings of extreme weather;
- View the 'Get Ready for Winter' and 'National Severe Weather Warnings' webpages provided by the Met Office (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>);
- Plan any journeys or activities with the weather in mind;
- If you have to travel in severe weather make sure you have adequate clothing and emergency supplies, including water, with you;
- If you intend to use your own vehicle make sure that you have simple equipment like a shovel, torch and battery operated or wind-up radio;
- Make sure your preparations take particular account of older and younger persons.



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

- We have plans in place to manage and co-ordinate the agencies responding to severe weather events;
- When we plan for big events like the Grand National, parades or other public events we take the likely weather conditions into account.

FLOODING

As the events of summer 2007 and 2012 showed, flooding can take different forms and, at its most serious, can affect many different aspects of our daily lives. Over the coming years, rising temperatures and sea levels, and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events are likely to raise the risk of flooding in the UK.

Excluding coastal flooding, the two main types of flood are river flooding and surface water flooding (caused by excess rainfall). These two types can be grouped under the general description of 'inland' flooding as they can, and do, occur simultaneously.

COASTAL FLOODING

ON MERSEYSIDE

Merseyside has a significant tidal flood risk with approximately 7,500 properties in the tidal flood area. Most of the risk is on the Wirral and Sefton coasts which are popular recreational areas and also include areas popular for retirement. There are homes and businesses that support the coastal tourist industry.

Another significant consideration is the impact of coastal flooding on marine transport. Liverpool has 13 working docks and, in addition, is the gateway to the Manchester Ship Canal which has 12 freight terminals along its length. It also has terminals for ferries going to Ireland and the Isle of Man. Disruption of these locations due to flooding could cause serious financial loss.

The oil terminal at Tranmere is also at risk of coastal flooding with the possibility of financial loss and pollution if the terminal is damaged.

Much has been done to protect the Merseyside coastline over the last 25 years, particularly in the construction of flood defences (e.g. Southport and Wallasey). 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 remains low as we have good flood defences within the county. However, the consequence of flooding, if defences are breached, is high.

LEAD AGENCY – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Risk to life (people and animals);
- Damage to properties, businesses, roads, structures and infrastructure;
- Pollution and contamination of local environments;
- Long-term damage to tourism and businesses.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Find out whether you live or work within a flood risk area (use the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/flood);
- Sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct if you are in a flood warning area using the Environment Agency website (address above) or phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or 0345 9881188;
- Visit the Floodready (www.floodready.co.uk) website to read case studies of recent flooding events in Merseyside and the North West.
- Complete a flood plan for your household or business;
- Know what to do to protect your property during a flood and have adequate insurance;
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or who may be able to provide assistance to you, in case of evacuation;
- Have supplies in your home that will enable you to cope for up to 3 days should you be unable to evacuate;
- Where possible, move valuable / irreplaceable items to upper floors during times of flood risk.

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

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



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

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

INLAND FLOODING

ON MERSEYSIDE

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

The Environment Agency maintains and operates flood defences on main rivers and provides many areas that are at risk with a 24-hour flood warning service. There are currently 17 warning areas for inland flooding in Merseyside.

LEAD AGENCIES

- **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (RIVER FLOODING) AND**
- **LOCAL AUTHORITY HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT (SURFACE WATER FLOODING)**



RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

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

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Disruption to utilities, electricity and water supplies;
- Evacuation of residents;
- Disruption to affected businesses;
- Short, medium and long-term accommodation of those whose homes are flooded;
- Long-term psychological and health impacts;
- Long-term restoration and recovery issues for homes and businesses.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Find out if your property is within a flood risk area (use the Environment Agency website www.gov.uk/flood);
- Sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct if you are in a flood warning area using the Environment Agency website (address above) or phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or 0345 988 1188;
- Visit the Floodready (www.floodready.co.uk) website to read case studies of recent flooding events in Merseyside and the North West.
- Plan where you will go if you have to evacuate and how you will get there;
- Know what to do to protect your property during a flood and have adequate insurance;
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or who may be able to provide assistance to you, in case of evacuation;
- Have supplies in your home that will enable you to cope for up to 3 days should you be unable to evacuate;
- Where possible, move valuable / irreplaceable items to upper floors during times of flood risk.



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

- Identification of where the flood water could go and who is at risk;
- Production of multi-agency plans to assist with the evacuation of those communities who are at risk;
- Strategic area planning to protect the areas at risk;
- Provision of guidance for the public about protecting property from flooding;
- Development of ways and means of alerting the public as early as possible when there is a significant flood risk;
- Continuing to invest in maintaining and improving river defences in our high-risk areas;
- Developing flood rescue and assistance for those who become isolated by flooding.

LOSS OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE – Electricity / Gas / Telecoms / Water / Food

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

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

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

Electricity / Gas Incident - Wide-scale loss of electricity or gas would have a direct or indirect impact on all other infrastructure sectors. In the event of a major gas or electricity supply emergency, both industry and government will have significant roles to play in managing the incident and its consequences. The gas and electricity companies would be responsible for the practical and operational management of the incident. These companies have well established plans and procedures in place to respond to incidents, which can range from the management of a local incident to a national level disruption.

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

Water – Water disruptions include burst water mains, supply disruption and minor or major contamination. Dependent on the severity of the incident a multi-agency emergency may be declared to ensure that people's basic water needs are met. There could also be a significant impact on health and food provision, as well as an impact on the capabilities of fire and rescue services.

Food – Widespread disruption of the transport infrastructure or fuel shortage may lead to temporary shortage of food supplies. However, if a large area of Merseyside's agricultural land was affected by an incident it would affect the economy of the country as well as impacting on food prices nationally.

ON MERSEYSIDE

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 Merseyside may be affected for longer than those in the larger towns.

LEAD AGENCY – THE LEAD AGENCY FOR UTILITY FAILURES VARIES DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY AND ITS IMPACTS.

RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- People exposed to poor sanitation and lack of drinking water;
- Homes without heating and limited ability to heat food and water;
- Limited ability to keep food cold or frozen;
- No ability to get fuel from filling stations;
- People unable to get cash from cash machines or make card purchases;
- Limited telecommunications (including mobile phones).

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of a wide scale incident could include:

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



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Know where the isolation valves/stop taps are for your utilities in case of gas and water emergencies. It may be necessary to shut off the supply to every premises in the affected area;
- Keep an emergency 'grab bag' in your home containing items such as a wind-up torch, battery powered radio and plug in (not digital) telephone and supplies of tinned food and drinking water;
- Outages may come with forewarning. If this is the case consider how you can be prepared by following the advice provided by SP Energy Networks;
- Be on alert for bogus callers posing as utility company workers. Always ask to see a Company Identification Card.



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION & INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The 1996 the Sea Empress grounded on the approach to Milford Haven resulting in 72,000 tonnes of crude oil being lost. 100km of the coastline was affected including wildlife, fishing and tourism. The clean-up operation took almost five years with an estimated cost of £60 million.

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



ON MERSEYSIDE

The Irish Sea, Liverpool Bay and River Mersey are major transport routes for many products including a large amount of oil.

One of the risks to Merseyside is the potential for a shipping accident, which could cause oil or other hazardous cargo to be released into the sea and then washed up on the shoreline causing widespread pollution and damage to the local environment, wildlife and economy. There are also controlled water courses that could become affected by pollution, which could have similar impacts.

Merseyside has a large number of visitors to the coastal areas all year round. A significant pollution incident would require a rapid and co-ordinated clean-up operation to ensure that damage to local wildlife and economy is minimised. Merseyside also has a number of inland rivers and water courses that could also become polluted, endangering public health, wildlife and the environment.

LEAD AGENCIES:

- **MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY (OFFSHORE RESPONSE AND CLEAN-UP)**
- **WIRRAL COUNCIL, LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL, SEFTON COUNCIL (SHORELINE RESPONSE AND CLEAN-UP)**
- **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (CONTROLLED WATERCOURSES)**



RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- Pollution of sea water or controlled watercourses;
- Environmental pollution;
- Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) sites;
- Damage to wildlife and environment;
- Health risks to residents and visitors.

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Economic impact to tourism economy;
- Closure of ports affecting movement of passengers and freight;
- Unrecoverable damage to coastal businesses e.g. shellfish harvesting.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

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



WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?

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

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.

An incident occurred at the Buncefield Oil Depot, Hemel Hempstead 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.

ON MERSEYSIDE

Although Merseyside 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 which 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 establishment of a 250m hazard zone. 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. Businesses that work with acetylene should ensure that they follow the appropriate guidance e.g. Health & Safety Executive Guidance, British Compressed Gases Association Codes of Practice.

The Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) (1999) and Amendments (2005) aim to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit the consequences to people and the environment of any incidents that do occur. They are determined by the Health & Safety Executive and are applicable to organisations or sites storing or handling large quantities of industrial chemicals of a hazardous nature. 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.

LEAD AGENCY – MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



<p>RISK IMPACTS</p> <p>The predicted impacts could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangerment of life; • Damage to property and the local area; • Pollution of the local environment. 	<p>CONSEQUENCES</p> <p>The consequences could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
 <p>WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware if you live near a hazardous site. If you hear warning of an incident, go indoors, close all your doors and windows and tune into BBC Radio Merseyside for advice; • This advice also applies in the event of a significant fire-related smoke plume from any industrial site. 	 <p>WHAT ARE WE DOING IN MERSEYSIDE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working directly with site operators who manage particularly hazardous sites; • Identification of ways and means of communicating with the public; • Support for local communities to develop their own emergency plans.

PREPAREDNESS

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

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE BETTER PREPARED IN YOUR HOME?

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

We use local radio and other media feeds 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 be broadcast and you may be able to receive during a power cut if it has batteries.

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

The MRF organisations work together with BBC Radio Merseyside (and other media outlets) to make sure that they can give out accurate and up-to-date information to keep people fully informed on what to do during any emergency.



PLANNING FOR AN EMERGENCY

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

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

AT HOME IN AN EMERGENCY

If you and your family need to leave your home during an emergency, it is a good idea to have an emergency 'Grab Bag' containing essential items.

Put your emergency kit together now and keep it in an easily accessible place to collect in the event of an emergency.

You may want to include some of the items below:

- Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication;
- First aid kit;
- Glasses or contact lenses;
- Nappies and other essentials for babies;
- Mobile phone and charger;
- Cash and credit/debit cards;
- Pocket torch;
- Battery-powered or wind-up rechargeable radio;
- Passports;
- Driving licences;
- Emergency contact lists, including insurance details;
- Spare keys;
- Spare clothes and blankets.



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

LEAVING YOUR HOME IN AN EMERGENCY

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

If you have time:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows;
- Take the items listed on the left of this page;
- If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets;
- Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads);
- Turn in to local radio for emergency advice and instructions;
- Inform emergency services of where you have gone and how you can be contacted.

RETURNING HOME AFTER AN EMERGENCY

Listen to advice from the emergency services or local authorities about any specific actions which you must follow when it is safe to return home.

HOW CAN YOUR BUSINESS BE PREPARED?

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

How would your organisation cope with:

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

Does your organisation have adequate business continuity measures in place?

BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT

Business Continuity Management is the process through which organisations aim to continue the delivery of their key products and services during and following a disruption to normal activity, and to recover afterwards. Effective business continuity is the first line of defence for any organisation to ensure they are able to maintain the delivery of their core services and, in the long-run, to assure their survival. Organisations should consider a wide range of potentially disruptive challenges, both internal, for example disruption to computer systems, and external, for example severe weather.

5 STEPS TO EFFECTIVE BUSINESS CONTINUITY

1. Understand your business;
2. Risk assessment;
3. Consider the resource needs of each of your business functions;
4. Document information in a user-friendly format about your businesses' critical functions and the resources required including alternatives / backups for each;
5. Train and test your staff in activating the continuity plan and the roles and procedures within it.

The work of the MRF follows a simple cycle with each phase of the cycle leading into the next. Each emergency response effort leads into an assessment of what didn't go as well as it could have and this starts the next planning and preparation phase.



MITIGATION

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

PREPAREDNESS

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

RESPONSE

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

RECOVERY

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

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The CRR is produced by the MRF and is contributed to by the following agencies:

Category One Responders

British Transport Police
Environment Agency
Knowsley Council
Liverpool City Council
Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Mersey Port Health Authority
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Merseyside Police
NHS England
North West Ambulance Service
Public Health England
Sefton Council
St Helens Council
Wirral Council

Category Two Responders

BT Openreach
Health & Safety Executive
Highways Agency
Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Merseyrail
Merseytravel
National Grid
Network Rail
NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups
SP Energy Networks
United Utilities

Others

British Red Cross
Churches Together
Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)
Maritime Volunteer Service
Mersey Tunnels Police
Military HQ 42 Brigade
Port of Liverpool Police
RAYNET
Rotary International
Royal Voluntary Service
Salvation Army



For any enquiries regarding the individual risk assessments or any aspect of the work of the MRF please contact us at:

MerseysideLRF@merseyfire.gov.uk

Or write to us at:
MRF Secretariat
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside, L30 4YD

WEB LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

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

www.merseysideprepared.org.uk

