Northumbria Community Risk Register
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**Introduction:**

*The Northumbria Context*

The Northumbria LRF area shares a common boundary with the Northumbria Police Force and includes the County of Northumberland and the area of Tyne and Wear which comprises Newcastle, North Tyneside, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. It also stretches from Berwick and the border with Scotland in the north to the City of Sunderland in the south and from the North Sea coast to the border with Cumbria in the west and has borders with County Durham in the south.

Northumbria has an overall population of 1,417,000 (office for National Statistics Oct 2011) clustered mainly in and around the Tyne and Wear conurbations.

As well as being a large area geographically, there is a huge diversity between areas, the environment and social groups.

The same range of diversity is true about the risks faced, whilst there are some risks which may affect anyone regardless of geography (pandemic influenza) there are some geographic areas where the risk is higher for certain incidents.

Northumbria Community Risk Register

The Community Risk Register (CRR) provides information on emergencies that could happen within the Northumbria area, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the impacts if they do.

This document aims to summarise the Community Risk Register in a format which can be easily used by residents and communities.

**Emergency Management Steps**

This document deals with emergencies that could affect the wider community or environment in Northumbria. For a legal definition of emergency in this context please click on below link. It does not give guidance or advice on other emergencies such as fire, gas leak or National Emergencies and Terrorism.

**Mitigation - How are the agencies across Northumbria working to ensure the effects of an emergency can be reduced?**

- Understanding the risks, how they are caused and what impact they would have locally.
- Produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any risk on their local communities.

**Preparedness - Being ready to respond to an incident.**

- Understanding the impact and consequence of each risk.
- Developing emergency plans and procedures for responding to the risks.
- Training staff and testing procedures.
- Matching our capabilities to the needs of each emergency.
- Developing longer-term recovery plans.
- Raising awareness of each organisation's roles and responsibilities.
- Learning lessons from previous incidents.
- Establishing links for help and assistance from other counties for lengthy or widespread incidents.

**Response - Reacting in the event of an**

Initial emergency activities (i.e. Public safety, evacuation and shelter, limiting the spread of the incident, search and rescue).

Initial damage assessment.

Multi-agency coordination.

Warning and informing the public.

**Recovery - Proactivity in the event of an incident**

- Initial and long-term recovery efforts.
- Re-housing of displaced people.
- Humanitarian assistance.
- Regeneration.
- Local authority will lead on recovery with multi agency support.


Further information on terrorism [https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency](https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency)
Flooding

Flooding is the most common and widespread natural disaster in the UK and Northumbria is no exception. By preparing in advance you can minimise the impact that flooding could have.

Flooding can occur from the sea (where there are high tides and stormy conditions) and from rivers (where a river cannot cope with the amount of water draining into it from its surrounding land). The highest rated flooding risk is due to surface water flooding (where drainage systems cannot cope with the amount of rainfall).

The issues associated with flooding are widespread and can include:
- Risk to life.
- Damage to homes, personal property, businesses, infrastructure.
- Pollution of local environments.
- Disruption to utilities and evacuation.
- Short, medium and long-term homelessness.
- Long term health and psychological impacts.
- Rural impacts include widespread carcasses, waterborne disease.

Who can be affected?

Those at risk of river flooding and coastal flooding are relatively easy to identify—click onto www.environment-agency.gov.uk and Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Information to identify if you live in a flood risk area.

Surface water flooding has the potential to occur anywhere, but is more common in built up areas.

What are we doing in Northumbria?

- Working with emergency services, local authorities and other agencies to develop flood response plans and procedures, for example Northumbria Flood Guidance.
- The Environment Agency provides a flood warning service, river and rainfall monitoring network and flood advisory services.
- Environmental Agency flood defences and watercourse maintenance programme.
- Training specialist staff in swift water rescue techniques as well as having Fire and Rescue Incident Managers who can provide advice and assessment.
- Community owned Flood warden groups in Northumbria LRF area including Morpeth, Ponteland, Haydon Bridge, Rothbury, Blackhall Mill, Galeshead.
- Providing guidance to members of the public about flooding, including flood warnings and what people can do to help themselves.
- Regular maintenance and clearing programs of gullies and culverts, especially in the event of storm warnings.

What can you do?

If you are in an area liable to flooding then it's a good idea to start making a personal flood plan which can include the following points:
- Consider putting together an emergency grab bag to keep in a safe place ready in case the worst happens, this should include a list of key emergency service numbers.
- Identify where your gas/electricity and water services come into your home and how to turn them off (stop cocks) in the event of an emergency.
- Consider putting together an emergency checklist of the actions and key contacts you will need in the event of an emergency.
- Check to see if you can receive "flood warnings direct" a free service operated by the Environment Agency by ringing Floodline on 03459881185.
- Know what the above different flood warnings mean - Flood Alert—This means that flooding is possible. Be prepared.
- What to do - Be prepared to act on your flood plan. Prepare a flood kit of essential items. Monitor local water levels on the Environmental Agency Website.

Flooding - This means that flooding is expected. Immediate action is required.

What to do - Protect yourself, your family and help others.
- Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Keep a flood kit ready. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. Put flood protection equipment in place.

Severe Flood Warning—This means—severe flooding. Danger to life.

What to do:
- Stay in a safe place with a means of escape. Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home.
- Co-operate with the emergency services. Call 999 if you are in immediate danger.
- Report instances of flooding to the local council or the Environment Agency.
- Look at flood protection measures for your home and businesses now - there will not be time in the event of an emergency.

Animal Disease

Some animal diseases may be passed to humans, others may only be passed from animal to animal.

The most serious disease in this category is foot and mouth disease. The 2001 outbreak resulted in over 10 million sheep and cattle being killed across the country. It is also likely that the whole of Great Britain would be declared a control area restricting the movement of all susceptible livestock unless licensed.

The impacts of a similar outbreak would include:
- Risk to animal health.
- Risk to human health.
- Disruption to rural communities, local economies and the environment.
- Damage to the economy.
- Damage to tourism and recreational sectors.

Who can be affected?

Previous incidents have devastated rural economies and communities. However incidents can extend wider and impact upon tourism.

What are we doing in Northumbria?

- Local authority staff work on animal health activities in the LRF region (some directly funded by Defra under framework agreements). They provide education and advice, monitor compliance with legislation, and work closely with Defra/Animal Health on disease response.
- Working closely with DEFRA to make sure that lessons identified from previous incidents are incorporated into emergency plans.
- Animal Health legislation requiring notification of suspect disease and providing control powers, on animal movements so that the potential disease risks can be reduced.
- Maintaining quarantine procedures for animals coming into the UK from abroad.

What can you do?

If involved in farming:
- Register livestock with DEFRA.
- Ensure sick animals are checked and reported.
- Vaccinate livestock where possible.
- If an outbreak is declared, follow Government advice to limit the spread of the disease and protect your livestock.

As a member of the public:
- Abide by restrictions in place to limit the spread of the disease e.g. closed footpaths in rural areas etc.

Further information on Animal Disease

DEFRA http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/
Pandemic Influenza

An influenza pandemic occurs when a new flu virus appears and there is no natural immunity to the virus. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

Flu viruses spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people infected with influenza. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year.

The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year. The last pandemic was in 2009 when fortunately the virus caused only a mild flu illness in most people who caught it.

If the virus causes severe illness:
- Health care and local authority social care systems may become overloaded.
- Normal life is likely to face wide spread disruption, particularly due to staff shortages affecting the provision of essential services, including production and transport of goods.
- Up to 750,000 additional deaths may have occurred in the UK by the end of a pandemic.

Who can be affected?
A pandemic is likely to occur in one or more waves, about 3-9 months apart. Each wave may last around 12 weeks and up to half the UK population may become infected.

What are we doing in Northumbria?
We work together to plan for:
- Management of the demand on the NHS and social care
- Anti-viral drugs have been purchased by HM Government.
- Vaccination with the newly developed pandemic vaccine once available.
- Public awareness

Further information
Please visit: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pandemic-flu

Industrial Accident

There are a number of sites processing and storing dangerous substances within the Northumbria area that in the event of an incident could affect the public or environment.

Issues that could arise from this include:
- Risk to life
- Damage to property
- Pollution of the environment
- Impact on oil and gas supplies
- Damage to the local economy

Who can be affected?
Those at most risk are those who live or work within close proximity to industrial sites. Those with existing breathing problems may be at increased risk due to the potential smoke / chemicals that may be released in a major incident.

What are we doing in Northumbria?
- Sites having larger quantities of dangerous substances fall under The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 2015 which aims to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit the consequences of incidents to people and the environment. The regulations are overseen jointly by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency.
- These sites are required to demonstrate precautions and safe operation. Sites are subject to planned inspection regimes which sample on site control measures and focus on the worst case events.
- These sites have specific arrangements and some sites have internal emergency plans in place. There are multi agency plans (External Emergency Plans) for sites having the largest amount of dangerous substances. There is a legal requirement for such plans to be regularly tested and exercised.
- Sites are required to provide information on the substances held and what to do in an emergency to the local population.
- Industrial Sites that do not fall within the COMAH regulations are visited by Fire and Rescue personnel who consider potential hazards and may develop a specific response plan for them.

What can you do?
- Be aware of the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency.
- Seek shelter immediately.
- Close doors and windows, switch off air conditioning.
- Tune in to local media for further advice.
Adverse Weather

Northumbria experiences some of the most dynamic weather patterns possible. This ranges from snow and ice through to heatwaves.

The impacts are as varied as the types of weather and include:
- Ill health.
- Property damage.
- Disruption to utilities including power supplies.
- Travel disruption.
- School closures.

Who can be affected?
Those travelling are often affected. In the event of a warning ask yourself; is it essential to make the journey? Could a telephone call be made instead? The elderly and vulnerable are at an increased risk in any heatwave or cold snap.

What are we doing in Northumbria?
- The MET office provides advice and severe weather warnings which can be received in many ways (e.g. TV, the internet etc.).
- Winter planning undertaken by many agencies, e.g. gritting routes.
- The NHS provides winter flu jabs and plan for expected surges.
- Additional support via health and social services is identified for elderly and vulnerable people.
- We have produced an adverse weather protocol to ensure that agencies limited resources can be best used in the event of adverse weather.

What can you do?
Ensure you can access the latest weather forecasts. Depending on the level of warning:
- Follow instructions and advice given by authorities.
- Avoid all non-essential journeys.
- If you must make a journey, plan ahead and carry emergency food/ clothing/ blanket etc.
- Check on elderly or vulnerable relatives and friends.
- If you are aware of property damage that may get worse in the event of strong winds, get it fixed now.

Further information
Please visit: http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/forecast_warnings.html

Hazardous Transport

There are a significant number of vehicles that carry chemicals everyday on the roads around the Northumbria area.

The risk to persons and the environment (built and natural) is directly related to the material involved and could include:
- Disruption to normal travel
- Death or injury to people
- People stranded in vehicles for long periods
- Environmental damage, depending on the chemical
- Damage to local infrastructure (e.g. roads)
- Evacuation of large areas

Who can be affected?
Road users and those close to key roads. Identifying those most vulnerable depends on the chemical or material released. The environment can also be affected depending on where a release takes place.

What are we doing?
- Each Local authority has major incident plans
- Northumbria Police carry out routine stop-checks on Hazardous Goods Vehicles to ensure that they are operating safely.
- The Fire Service has hazardous material incident capability to enable them to deal with an incident of this nature along with mass decontamination capability.

What can you do?
Be aware of the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency. In most cases this will be to;
- Go In (seek shelter immediately)
- Stay In (close doors and windows, switch off air conditioning)
- Tune In (to local media for further advice)

Further information
Please visit: https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste
What can you do to be prepared in an emergency?

The advice for most emergencies is normally GO IN, STAY IN AND TUNE IN.

Go indoors—unless there is an obvious risk to the property or you are advised to evacuate for your safety by the emergency services. Close all doors and windows and, if the emergency is related to potential flooding block any air bricks/ducts if possible. If the emergency is related to release of any toxic substances also close any ventilation systems (if safe to do so).

Stay indoors—until you know more about the risks or advised that it is safe to leave your home.

Tune in—to local radio or television stations for updates on the situation or if you have access to the internet visit the relevant web sites.

Radio is very reliable as it can still broadcast and be received during a power cut by using a wind up or battery powered radio.

Agencies such as the Police, Fire Service, Met Office, Environment Agency, Local Authorities and Health agencies work together with media outlets to make sure that they give out accurate and up-to-date information to keep people fully informed on what to do during any emergency.

Don’t try to phone the emergency services unless you have an emergency as the phone lines may be busy dealing with the incident.

You can also refer to the Met Office website for up to date information and forecasts on weather conditions.

Additional Advice

- If a contact number or website address is issued by the emergency services use it to get updates but remember you will be one of many people trying to use it so there may be some delay in getting through. Be patient and keep trying if you cannot get the information you want from other sources.
- Do not put yourself, or others, in any danger.
- When checking for injuries to yourself or others always attend to yourself first.
- Consider if there are any elderly or vulnerable neighbours who may need help in preparing for or during an emergency.
- If advised to do so, be prepared to evacuate and follow any instructions with regard to safe routes away from the danger area.
- Flooding presents a number of risks to health, drowning being the most obvious. Serious injury can be caused by falling into fast flowing water or from hidden dangers under the water, such as missing manhole covers. The stress and strain of being flooded and cleaning up can have a notable impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- If evacuation is recommended, a rendezvous point for evacuees will normally be established and a rest centre set up for longer term emergency incidents where you will be able to stay.
- If you choose not to use the rest centre, please advise the emergency services staff at the rest centre of your alternative arrangements so people are not deployed to “search” for you if you cannot be located.

Planning for an emergency

Consider the risks you might face:

Do you live in a flood risk area?


Check your risk from [Surface Water Flooding](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

If you are at risk from flooding, think about preparing a [personal flood plan](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Know what flood warnings are and how they affect you, and look at [Homeowners Guide to Flood Resilience - A Living Document](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Do you live near any industrial processing industries? Click here for [COMAH information](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Do you live on the coast in an area subject to erosion?

Do you live in an area where power / utilities are often subject to disruption in severe weather?

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

- House and car keys.
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any prescribed medication.
- A battery or wind-up radio, with spare batteries a battery or wind-up torch with spare batteries a first aid kit.
- Baby food and care items where necessary.
- Your mobile phone and charger.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Warm, waterproof clothing and blankets.
- Bottled water, ready-to-eat food (e.g. tinned food) and a bottle / tin opener, in case you have to eat food (e.g. tinned food).
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any prescribed medication.
- House and car keys.
- Additional Advice

In certain situations, emergency services may ask to leave your home.

If this happens, leave as quickly and calmly as possible.

If you have time and it is relevant to do so:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows and take the items identified on the left.
- If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets.
- Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads).
- Tune in to local radio for emergency advice and instructions.
- Inform emergency services of where you have gone and how you can be contacted.
- Ensure you take all health utilities including glasses, hearing aids and any prescribed medication.

RETURNING HOME AFTER AN EMERGENCY

Listen to advice from emergency services or local authorities about specific actions you should follow when it is safe to return home.
How can your local community be prepared?

Wide-scale emergencies can and do happen. In the last 5 years the UK has seen events such as heavy snow, flooding, chemical incidents, drought, riots, utility failures and fuel shortages.

What is a community emergency plan?
A community emergency plan provides advice and guidance to a local community (this may be the parish council, neighborhood watch area or even a single street) both in advance of and during any significant emergency. To see if a community emergency plan exists in your area please visit your local authority website.

Why have a community emergency plan?
The purpose of community resilience is to encourage people to plan and be prepared to put in place a self-help response within a community which is affected by an emergency.

Experience has shown that, sometimes due to the scale and nature of an emergency, the normal response provided by the emergency services and the local authorities can be delayed. On these occasions anything which the local community can do to support each other will help them deal with the emergency more effectively.

How to get started
Community resilience measures can be as little as designating a point of contact within the community to receive warnings and messages from emergency services and local authorities. The plan can grow over time to include areas such as:

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

A new page on GOV.UK - Preparing for emergencies, signposts users to key public facing content which is useful for individual, business and community resilience.

The Northumbria Local Resilience Forum membership is made up of responder organisations found within the Northumbria Police area boundary.

The Forum includes the emergency services, local authorities, the Environment Agency and health agencies along with voluntary and private agencies and the utility companies.

The objectives of the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum are:

- to assess the risk of emergencies in the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum area
- to facilitate the development of multi-agency emergency plans and arrangements
- to assist local authorities in promoting business continuity in the local community
to ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of emergency

- to facilitate co-operation between local responder organisations such as the police and local authorities
- to facilitate information sharing between local responder organisations
Business Continuity Management

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

Statistics show that almost one in five businesses will be affected by a major disruption every year. The consequences can result in loss of customers, revenue and even the business itself. It has been shown that 8 out of 10 businesses will be affected by a major disruption every year. The community can reduce the strain on the emergency services and others by taking some simple actions in the event of an incident. But it goes beyond you if your place of work is at risk of flooding, raising the issue with managers may ensure that in the event of flooding the business survives. Checking that an elderly relation is okay in the event of severe weather may save their life.

There are ways that you can reduce the risks to your business by preparing a 'business continuity plan'. In this you consider risks like flooding, severe weather, pandemic influenza or industrial accident and plan how you could overcome them.

Visit www.gov.uk for further guidance.

- Consider what would happen if you lost:
  - technology/ data - due to loss of power loss/ IT failure.
  - supply chain due to bad weather or other factors.
  - Customers due to bad weather, such as prolonged heavy snow.

5 Steps to Effective Business Continuity

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

2. Risk assessment
   - What risks does your business face (internal and external)?
   - Consider these risks within your business risk assessment. What can you put in place to reduce the likelihood of the risks and/or the impact of them?

3. Consider the resource needs of each of your business functions
   - People
   - Premises
   - Equipment
   - Information
   - Communications
   - External suppliers / contractors

4. Document information in a user-friendly format about your businesses’ critical functions and the resources required, including alternatives / backups for each to assist you during and after an emergency.

5. Train and test your staff in activating the continuity plan and the roles and procedures within it.

Does your organisation have adequate business continuity measures in place?

Business Continuity Management is the process through which organisations aim to continue the delivery of their key products and services during and following disruptive events. 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, assure their survival.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Community Risk Register (CRR)?
At its most basic the risk register is a list of what emergencies might happen in the Northumbria area ranked in order of how likely they are to happen and how badly they will affect the community.

Why produce a risk register?
It is a legal requirement under The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and it is a tool to both ensure communities have an awareness of the risks in their area and that organisations resources are being targeted to have the most benefit.

What science is the CRR based on?
The CRR is based on a National Risk Register produced by the Government. This is centred around a range of data including historic, scientific and expert analysis to assess the risks to the UK as a whole.

Using this information we can identify which are relevant locally and add any additional risks. Again this process involves looking at a range of data, including incidents that have occurred, local knowledge and expert guidance.

What has it got to do with me?
By producing this information and sharing it with you we hope that you will be in a better position to cope in the event of an incident. But it goes beyond you if your place of work is at risk of flooding, raising the issue with managers may ensure that in the event of flooding the business survives. Checking that an elderly relation is okay in the event of severe weather may save their life.

Isn’t this all just common sense?
Yes, a lot of the information contained in this document is common sense but by combining all the common sense from a large number of agencies into one document, we hope to provide a useful checklist and source of information.

Why should I do this as it will never happen to me?
Unfortunately not – whilst rare, major incidents do happen both locally and nationally. If we plan and prepare for such incidents they will have less of an impact. Surely it is better to spend a little time now preparing for something which may or may not happen as oppose to regretting not doing anything later.

Won’t the emergency services just respond?
In the event of a large scale incident the emergency services and others will be forced to prioritise their response to those who need it most.

The community can reduce the strain on the emergency services and others by taking some simple actions before, during, and after an event. Some of these are outlined in this document.
## Useful Contacts

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<thead>
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<td>NHS 111</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHS 111 (Text Phone)</td>
<td>0845 606 4647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas Leaks</td>
<td>0800 111 999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity Faults (North East)</td>
<td>0800 66 88 77</td>
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<td>Berwick Area</td>
<td>0800 092 9290</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northumbrian Water (Emergencies)</td>
<td>0345 717 1100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Agency (Floodline)</td>
<td>0345 988 1188</td>
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<td>Police</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service</td>
<td>0191 444 1500</td>
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<td>Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service</td>
<td>0345 6006400</td>
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<td>Northumberland County Council</td>
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<td>North Tyneside</td>
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## Your Personal Information Page

### Useful Contacts

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### If evacuated, where could you stay?

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