

Know Your Risks

Risks and Plans for Bedfordshire



Bedfordshire
PREPARED

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How we manage risks in Bedfordshire

The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) requires the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum to produce a local Community Risk Register as part of our wider work in preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies.

The Register covers all types of hazard and all the plans and controls we have in place to protect the community of Bedfordshire.

The risk information on this site covers only non-malicious events (namely hazards) not threats (terrorist incidents). Our risk assessment work does cover threats, but because the information is highly sensitive and could be misused, we will not publish specific details.

What is the definition of an emergency?

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the Act) describes an emergency as:

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

What are the risks in Bedfordshire

Government identifies over 80 potential hazards that have to be assessed by the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum to help prioritise work. The risks outlined below are local risks that are considered to be relatively high consequence.

The local 'very high' risks are:

- Pandemic Influenza Style Disease Risk and Plan (see page 3)
- Energy Supply Disruption Risk and Plan (see page 5)

The local 'high' risks are:

- Flooding Risk and Plan (see page 8)
- Fuel Disruption Risk and Plan (see page 11)
- Severe / Adverse Weather Risk and Plan (see page 12)



Pandemic Influenza Style Disease Risk and Plan

A pandemic is an infectious disease that spreads worldwide, with outbreaks or epidemics occurring in many countries and in most regions of the world.

A pandemic occurs when a new virus or new virus strain emerges which is markedly different from previously circulating strains and is able to:

- infect people (rather than, or in addition to, other mammals or birds);
- spread from person to person;
- cause illness in a high proportion of the people infected; and
- spread widely, because most people will have little or no immunity to the new virus/strain and will be susceptible to infection as (they will not previously have been exposed to it or a similar strain of virus, and any previous vaccinations will not have provided antibodies to protect against the strain)

A pandemic can be an outbreak of influenza (flu) but unlike a normal flu virus, which has a 'season' (October to May), a flu pandemic can occur at any time. The outbreak may last about three months with further outbreaks coming in waves, weeks or months after the initial onset.

Based on previous pandemic evidence, at least 20% of the population are likely to get the virus during an outbreak. Such numbers could seriously affect the ability of health, emergency services and business to cope with those who are absent because they are ill, voluntarily quarantined or looking after family members who are ill. A virus is mainly spread by droplet infection produced when an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes; it may also be spread by hand or face contact after touching a droplet-contaminated person or surface.

For more information see the [NHS Choices website](#).

Our Plan: Like other local, regional and national organisations the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum considers there is still a risk of further a pandemic or epidemic even following the swine flu pandemic. We have developed a plan which outlines the contingency arrangements for our Category 1 and 2 Responders to prepare for, respond to and manage the recovery from a pandemic.

What you can do:

You can find information on several government websites, such as the [Public Health England \(via .gov.uk\)](#). Here you can also find practical measures you can take to help reduce the spread of any flu virus by following basic hygiene.

Download the [Department of Health's leaflet](#) from the .gov.uk website on key facts and advice that you can use when you have flu.

What you can do for your business:

A pandemic can have a major effect on businesses, with up to 20% of employees off sick and another 20% off to care for the sick. Companies should plan to make enough information available so that all employees are aware of what may happen in their organisation; for example, some employees may have to take on new roles or work from home. See our [Prepare Your Business Page](#) for more information

Local pandemic influenza facts

The difference between human flu and avian flu:

Avian flu is primarily a flu infection in birds, presenting a risk to wild birds and poultry livestock. This should not be confused with human flu pandemics, which affect our health. They present two different risks that the Community Risk Register categorises as 'Animal Health' for avian flu and 'Human Health' for human flu.

For more details on avian influenza, visit www.defra.gov.uk.



Energy Supply Disruption Risk and Plan

An incident affecting energy supply could be electricity, gas, water and/or communications.

See our guidance below but also see our [utilities advice online](#) as well as our [utility leaflet for businesses](#) and [community teams](#) – *This information is coming soon.*



Electricity

Overview: The national risk on electricity failure is called a Black Start Incident. This means a total failure of the National Electricity Transmission Network lasting up to five days, with potential for wide area (though not national) power disruptions for up to 14 days.

Black Start is the term given to the recovery phase from a total or widespread loss of the UK mainland power network, caused through a shortage in generation available to meet demand, technical failure, severe weather situations, or any combination of these conditions. The total or widespread shutdown of the entire UK mainland power network is identified as a risk on the [National Risk Register](#). For more detail see our [utility leaflet for businesses](#) (*coming soon*).

The energy infrastructure in the UK is generally robust and future failures are unlikely. However, transmission systems are complex and problems can occur for a range of reasons so power supplies can never be guaranteed. In the East of England electricity supplies are delivered by UK Power Networks, regardless of who you pay your bill to.

What you can do: In a power cut telephone UK Power Networks on 105 from a Landline or 0333 32 32 105 from a mobile.

Visit [UK Power Networks website](#) for their toolbox of useful information to prepare for electricity failure and how to cope if it happens.

See our advice on Priority Services for the vulnerable and our [utilities advice online](#).

Gas

Overview: If there is a significant gas outage, the National Grid has stocks of alternative heating and cooking equipment which it will distribute to customers in the affected areas.

What you can do: For all gas incidents, telephone the National Grid Emergency Call Centre on 0800 111999.

Visit the [National Grid website](#) for additional advice.

See our advice on Priority Services for the vulnerable and out our [utilities advice online](#) including how to turn off your utilities.

Water

Overview: All water companies must warn and inform their customers of problems that may affect their supply, and provide alternative supplies

What you can do: In the event of loss of water supply, customers are advised to telephone the number on their water bills or check on the water company's website.

See our advice on Priority Services for the vulnerable and our [utilities advice online](#) including how to turn off your utilities.

Priority Services:

You may be entitled to a priority service during a utilities failure for example bottled water delivered to the elderly and / or disabled. Each service is different but all are OPT IN services and you have to register for them.

If you would like to find out whether you are eligible for any of these services, please contact your utility companies via the contact details on their bills.

Can your business survive?

- As part of their business continuity plans, companies should consider what will happen if they face a loss of power, fuel supply for their transport fleet, gas supply or communications over a long period

- See our [Prepare Your Business Page](#) for more advice as well as our [utility leaflet for businesses](#) and [community teams](#) (coming soon).

Plans in Bedfordshire:

Our Utility Plan: The plan for Bedfordshire outlines the capabilities, procedures and guidelines that apply in responding to a major utility failure of gas, electricity and water in Bedfordshire, whatever the cause might be.

In the event of a utilities failure, local authorities are responsible for working with the utility company and health service providers to identify those vulnerable people who are directly affected. Utility companies hold special needs registers and will share information in times of crisis if they need assistance.

The local authorities are also likely to provide emergency assistance centres, basic human needs (such as sanitation, warmth, shelter, food and drink), housing for displaced people within 48 hours or sooner if appropriate, and assist the utilities companies with the identification of/and the support of vulnerable people

Our Telecommunications Plan: There is a separate plan for Bedfordshire in relation to telecommunications because there are too many operating companies with different non-compatible systems to agree a common approach.

In today's modern society we use many different means of communicating including email, mobile phones, landline telephones, satellite technology and radio systems. With all such systems we are reliant upon many things from power to the technical capability of the equipment being used.

All of these technologies use different systems, suppliers and equipment and it is unlikely that all of these methods of communication would stop working at the same time.

Flooding Risk and Plan

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 department of your local council can deal with flooding on a public highway, while the local water company would sort out a burst water main. The most common types of flooding are fluvial (river flooding) and surface water flooding.



Flooding from surface water happens when the local drainage system cannot cope with the rainfall and can happen at any time of the year. It is extremely difficult to predict precisely where surface water flooding will happen as it is dependent on ground levels, rainfall, and the local drainage network'.

River flooding occurs when the water level in a river overtops its banks or flood defences. The Environment Agency maintains and operates flood defences and provides a 24-hour flood warning service for properties at risk from river, tidal and groundwater flooding in England and Wales. The Environment Agency website has flood maps to check if you are at risk of flooding.

The Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service has two fire stations that are water rescue specialist stations and their crews are trained to enter the fast-moving water to rescue people. They carry additional specialist water rescue equipment to help them.

What you can do:

- Register for the FREE Flood Warnings Direct that gives advance warning of flooding and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To register either visit the [Environment Agency website](#), or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188. All you need is a telephone number where flood warnings can be sent 24 hours a day
- Telephone Floodline on 0845 988 1188 and listen to recorded flood advice messages or speak to Environment Agency staff
- Visit the [Environment Agency's Flood Information Service](#) for up to date flood information
- sign up to the Environment Agency flood warning [Twitter feed](#) and / or sign-up to the [Facebook page](#) (note not all warnings are put to Facebook)
- See the Environment Agency's information on the .gov.uk website for information on [how to prepare for flooding](#) and [getting help during a flood](#). Note that Bedfordshire's local authorities do not provide sandbags to residents; this is householders' responsibility

- Download the [Environment Agency's leaflet](#) on preparing for floods which was developed with Public Health England and The Food Standards Agency
- Make up an emergency kit ([see our emergency kit/grab bag leaflet](#)) and include the Floodline number (0845 988 1188) in your emergency contact numbers. Also consider making an [evacuation plan](#).
- Make sure you have adequate insurance. Flood damage is included in most buildings insurance policies, but do check your home and contents are covered
- Cleaning up after a flood can not only be expensive and upsetting but you also need to think about the potential hazards to your health. Have a look at the [NHS Choices advice on Flood: cleaning up and food hygiene](#)
- Visit the [RAC website](#) for advice on driving in heavy rain and flood

Useful Numbers:

- If you believe your personal safety is at risk from a flood or the inside of your property is about to be flooded, dial 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue service. Otherwise, report flooding events using the numbers below
- Flooding from a main river: Environment Agency Floodline Number 0845 988 11 88
- Flooding from a watercourse in an Internal Drainage Board area: 01234 354 396. Check to see if you are in an IDB area on <http://www.idbs.org.uk/board-area-map/>
- Flooding from public sewers and mains:
 - Anglian Water 08457 145 145
 - or if you are in Luton then contact Affinity Water on 0845 7823333 or Thames Valley on 0800 3169800
- Flooding from the public highway:
 - Bedford Borough Council Highways Department on 01234 228 661
 - Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Department on 0300 300 8049 or
 - Luton Borough Council Highways Department on 01582 510333
- Flooding from private sewers, from a watercourse in a local authority operating area and / or from a neighbour's property– see below:
 - Customer Services, Bedford Borough Council 01234 267422
 - Customer Services, Central Bedfordshire Council 0300 300 8000
 - Customer Services, Luton Borough Council 01582 546 000

Will your business survive a flood?

The website also has other information under ['What's in your backyard?'](#), including maps showing water quality, groundwater protection zones, landfill sites and much more. The Environmental Agency's website offers advice to businesses on how to put together a flood plan, which will help them develop business continuity plans.

See our [Prepare Your Business Page](#) for more advice.

Our Plan

Our plan has been designed to be used in the early stages of a flood. It deals with the main areas where there is an immediate need for co-operation, joint working and co-ordination.

The plan sets out:

- trigger points' which help decide when the plan should be used
- procedures to co-ordinate the response to flooding
- an explanation of the roles that need to be carried out and by whom, and
- other information that may be useful to responding agencies – such as specific information on local hydrology which will help inform their response, and help them predict a timeline for when flooding may occur
- the plan also informs responders where the most suitable assistance centre could be opened for evacuated residents

Fuel Disruption Risk and Plan

A lack of fuel could occur at any time due to a variety of different circumstances. This could be as a result of natural or other disasters affecting supply, transportation or refinery issues. If this were the case, then for Bedfordshire, all category 1 responders have considered their own business continuity plans and evaluated how they would manage with little or no fuel.

What you can do:

- Don't panic buy. This can cause self-inflicted shortages
- Keep a quarter of a tank of fuel in your car all the time but do not fill up unnecessarily
- Follow national and local guidance provided at the time

Can your business survive?

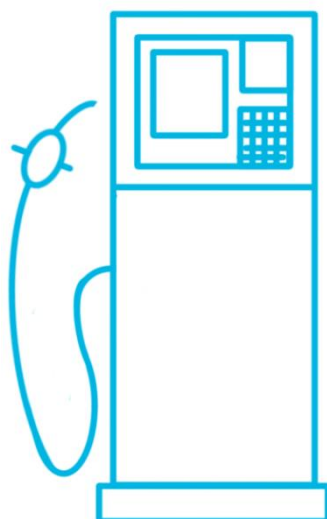
Every business should have a business continuity plan in place in case of an emergency, like loss of telephones or flooding, in order to ensure the business can still function. Think about how fuel disruption might affect your business. For example: do you have a fleet of vehicles?

See our [Prepare Your Business Page](#) for more advice.

Our Plan:

The plan for Bedfordshire details the procedures in place in the county to bring all agencies together so that any crisis can be managed in a coordinated approach, therefore reducing the potential impact on the public.

The plan further outlines how the public will be kept informed of the situation. We aim to provide practical advice throughout the incident.



Severe / Adverse Weather Risk and Plan

Across the UK, our weather is often very changeable and can vary greatly from one place to another. Our mixed weather is to do with the fact the British Isles sits between the Atlantic Ocean and continental Europe.

Our geographical position puts us at the crossroads for different types of weather. This means that even subtle differences in the direction from where the wind blows – can bring big changes in the type of weather we experience.

Some of the air masses that we see include warm, moist ‘tropical maritime air’ from the south west, cold ‘Polar Arctic air’ from the north, ‘hot, dry continental air’ from the south in the summer and bitterly cold ‘Polar continental air’ from the east in the winter.

The range of air masses that we experience often also puts the UK on a ‘battleground’ – as different air masses and the weather conditions that they bring try to dominate our skies.

Weather can affect our health, behaviour, and patterns of consumption; from how much power we use, to where and when we go on holiday. Virtually everything we do is influenced by the weather. We have also seen the UK affected by volcanic eruptions abroad – and ash clouds affecting air travel.

The Met Office is the national meteorological service for the United Kingdom, so we look to them for their forecasts and warnings. They have a vital role in public safety; they warn the community of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause danger to life and property or widespread disruption of communications or transport through their National Severe Weather Warning Service. Warnings are issued for Rain, Snow, Wind, Fog and Ice.

Warnings are assessed according to likelihood (how likely the event is to occur) and impact (the potential impact the expected conditions may have). By combining these two factors, a warning is determined to be at a level on a traffic light system, depicted by colours from ‘Green’ to ‘Yellow’ to ‘Amber’ and at the highest level – ‘Red’.

High and low temperature can affect people's health and wellbeing. The Met Office in association with Public Health England issue 'Cold Weather Alerts' from the 1st November to 31st March and a 'Heat Health Watch' system from 1st June to 15th September each year.

What you can do:

- Visit the [Met Office website](#) for useful advice on severe weather including for [severe gales](#), [heavy rain](#), [heavy snow and icy roads](#), [thunderstorms and lightning](#), [heat and sun](#) and [dense fog](#)
- Think about your community and look out for your neighbours. If you know someone who is older, disabled or unwell, you could keep checking that they are OK during the winter or times of adverse weather
- Make up an emergency kit ([see our emergency kit/grab bag leaflet](#)) and consider making an [evacuation plan](#) in case you need to leave your home.
- See the [.gov.uk website](#) for information on how to drive in adverse weather conditions



Our Plan:

Our plan uses Met Office Warnings which are issued up to five days in advance when there is an increased risk of impacts because of severe weather. Cold Weather Alerts and Heat-Health Watch are also used and these focus on health-related implications caused by the low or high temperatures

It also deals with the main areas where there is an immediate need for co-operation, joint working and co-ordination across the emergency responder community.

The plan sets out:

- to help determine what action, if any, should be taken
- plans to co-ordinate the response to any severe weather
- an explanation of the roles that need to be carried out and by whom, and
- other information that may be useful to responding agencies – such as specific information on existing and local weather conditions which will help inform their response, and help them predict a timeline for when any impacts may occur
- the plan also informs responders where the most suitable assistance centre could be opened for evacuated residents

Bedfordshire Plans

Each of our partner organisations have their own emergency plans to respond to or recovery from an emergency incident. Additionally, they have worked with us, as a Local Resilience Forum, to put into place multi-agency plans and mutual support arrangements in order to co-ordinate efforts.

If a hazard has been identified through the Community Risk Register process as presenting a particular risk, a specific plan may be created. This may be specific to the hazard, or to a capability required as a result of the hazard.

The following pages provides information on our plans:

- Assistance Centre Plan (see page 15)
- Command & Control Plan (see page 16)
- Influx Of People Into Bedfordshire From Overseas Plan (see page 17)
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan (see page 18)
- Mass Casualties Plan (see page 21)
- Public & Media Communications Plan (see page 22)
- Resilience Mortuaries Plan (see page 23)
- Vulnerable People Plan (see page 24)

Note that plans created to address our very high and high risks are covered in the risk part of this leaflet:

- Pandemic Influenza Style Disease Risk and Plan (see page 3)
- Energy Supply Disruption Risk and Plan (see page 5)
- Flooding Risk and Plan (see page 8)
- Fuel Disruption Risk and Plan (see page 11)
- Severe / Adverse Weather Risk and Plan (see page 12)



Assistance Centre Plan

What is an assistance centre?

An Assistance Centre is a facility where persons affected by an emergency can receive help, information, essential welfare services, basic refreshments and shelter for short periods of time.

Why set up an assistance centre?

An assistance centre may be set up for a variety of reasons, from supporting communities during utility failures to ensuring there is a place to go if people have been evacuated from their homes due to flooding or fire involving dangerous materials.

An assistance centre will also be set up if people start to arrive at the scene of an emergency worried about their family members or friends. The centre will be somewhere they can go to gain more information in a safe environment, and report any missing persons.

We may also establish a centre for the responding staff at an incident site to look after their welfare. An example of this was the Buncefield fire and explosion in Hertfordshire. Emergency service and local authority staff were working around the clock to tackle the fire and its consequences. Centres were established for these responders to go to.

Our Plan:

The local authority is responsible for the overall management of an assistance centre. Once the local authority is aware that an assistance centre is required, they will be able to have a centre open and functioning within two hours.

If you are affected by an emergency, we are committed to providing you with the support and assistance you need. The range of services offered at an assistance centre depends on the situation, people's needs and the amount of time it is required for.

Our plan sets out how to manage and co-ordinate the activation, set-up and staffing of an assistance centre. You can download and view our [Guide to Managing Assistance Centres](#).

The Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC) provides volunteers at an assistance centre. We also take on members of the public to volunteer and help in emergencies. If you are interested, [find out more on our website.](#)



Command & Control Plan

Whenever an event occurs that requires a multi-agency response, all partners in Bedfordshire have their own systems and procedures to follow.

To assist with the overall coordination and joined up approach to resolving any incident partner agencies throughout Bedfordshire, when required to meet as one have put in place command and control protocols to assist in the speedy management and resolution of any crisis.



Influx Of People Into Bedfordshire From Overseas Plan

When disasters and emergencies take place abroad, UK passport holders may be affected. As a consequence, the Government may help evacuate people from the area concerned.

We have a plan in place to manage the consequences of these anywhere in the world, in terms of those evacuees arriving into Bedfordshire.

Our plan provides details of the response by individual agencies and organisations to assist with the needs of evacuees providing support, and welfare; identifying agencies and organisations that will be involved at the airport when receiving the evacuees.

In most instances the plan will be triggered by notification from the Foreign and Commonwealth office, who will provide advance notice of any evacuation or repatriation. Upon receipt of this notification we will activate supporting agencies and organisations to mobilise and be ready to receive the evacuees.

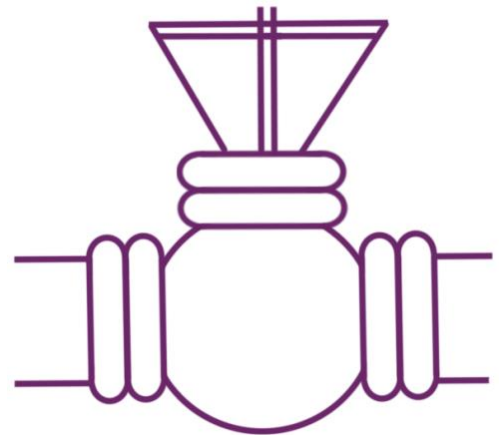


Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan

Our Plan:

We have developed a plan which is part of the local authority response to the Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996.

The Regulations cover any pipelines conveying dangerous fluids or natural gas above 7 bar absolute pressure, which have the potential to cause a major accident. There are known as High-Pressure Pipelines.



There are two parts to the Gas pipeline infrastructure:

- **Gas Transmission:** Is a national network of high-pressure gas pipelines in England, Scotland and Wales operating as a 'Motorway' network, transporting high pressure gas over large distances. All of its pipelines, known as the National Transmission System (NTS), are designated as MAHP pipelines.
- **Gas Distribution:** are the 'A and B roads' feeding from Gas Transmission, distributing lower pressure gas to customers. Although these pipes are distributing lower pressure gas there are some high-pressure gas pipelines which are designated as MAHP. These are also known as Local Transmission System (LTS) pipelines. Some of these lower tier high pressure pipe lines in Bedfordshire are owned by SGN.

There are other pipelines in the county but these are not defined as MAHP by the Regulations and are therefore outside of the scope of this plan, they include:

- a) The 'fina-line' operated by Total UK; a pipeline transporting petroleum products between Lincolnshire and Hemel Hempstead.
- b) Those carrying aviation fuels as part of the CLH Pipeline System (CLH-PS). The Petroleum Storage Depot (PSD) at Sandy is at a junction of this pipeline system and is a lower tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site.

If a high-pressure pipeline is ruptured, apart from the danger around the site there may well be loss of supply (such as Gas – if a high-pressure gas pipeline) in a wide area, which may take a number of weeks to restore.

The aim of our plan is to detail the action to be taken to minimise the consequences to the health and safety of people; and restore services back to normality as soon as possible.

Where are our high-pressure pipelines?

Linesearch: This website allows you to access the details on the different pipelines around the country – this will help locate other hazardous pipelines/ cables within Bedfordshire. It is down to each organisation to sign up to the free service and for their discretion if they want to use it.

<http://www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk>

National Grid Dial before you dig –

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Safety/Dial-before-you-dig>

You can also see where pipelines run by looking for these markers:



What you can do:

If a pipeline ruptures, the emergency services may impose a cordon and consider evacuating people within a certain distance from the incident. If you are asked to evacuate, please follow the instructions you are given. Otherwise, 'Go in, Stay in, and Tune in'.

The emergency services and pipeline operator will work to reduce the cordon distance as soon as it is safe to do so.

Control of Major Accident and Hazardous Sites

The Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 set out that sites which store dangerous goods up to a certain level must comply with specific safety measures.

There are two tiers of sites; Lower Tier and Upper Tier. These sites are classified based on the amount and type of dangerous goods that they store.

In Bedfordshire we currently have no Upper Tier sites. There are Lower Tier sites in Bedfordshire and these include:

- Sandy Petroleum Storage Depot
- MBDA Systems, Henlow
- Schlegel, Henlow
- Frontier Agriculture, Sandy

These sites are required by law to have an emergency plan in place should there be an incident on site.

Mass Casualties Plan

What is a mass casualties incident:

The definition of a 'mass casualty incident' is one where the normal major incident response by NHS organisations is exceeded and where alternative measures must be put in place, across all health trusts in order to maintain an effective, suitable and sustainable response.

Definition of a 'casualty' is a person who is affected by an incident that has caused them injury or resulted in them requiring other assistance.

Our Plan:

A mass casualty event may occur as a result of many incidents, for example, a transport accident (rail, road, plane), an industrial accident (e.g. Buncefield) or a deliberate act of violence/terrorism (e.g. 7/7 London Bombings).

We have arrangements in place, in conjunction with regional and national arrangements, to respond to a mass casualty incident.

The arrangements we have in place oversee the activation and coordination of a mass casualty event, occurring in, or affecting the health and social care system of Bedfordshire.

The plan identifies options for:

- Managing a single or multi-site incident
- Management of resources across the healthcare system to manage:
 - Increased capacity and demands
 - The access to treatment of those affected

NHS organisations, local authorities, the emergency services and volunteer agencies work together to ensure that, should such an event occur, our response is coordinated and supported across all organisations to, wherever possible, lessen the impact on those affected and to ensure essential services can be maintained.

Public & Media Communications Plan

This plan details the multi-agency communications response during a major incident, as providing effective communications to the public is essential in such circumstances.

In the event of a major incident/emergency we:

- Want to provide fast, early and accurate information
- Will establish a 'Media Cell' where appropriate to ensure information and communications are coordinated effectively and consistently across all partners.

Our plan details:

- How we will co-ordinate the response in such an incident to ensure the correct public safety messages are communicated in a consistent way
- The roles and responsibilities of staff involved in a Media Cell, the actions those people may need to think about and stand down procedures

Communications methods and tools are developing fast. Although we would ensure that traditional media relations and communications channels are well managed, we would also look to update websites, use SMS messaging and social media tools where appropriate.



Resilience Mortuaries Plan

The plan is activated if there are mass fatalities and the coroner deems the scale of the incident to be too large for normal hospital mortuaries to be able to cope with. Our resilience mortuary plan is designed to outline the necessary steps to establish, equip, operate and then decommission a temporary mortuary, wherever it is located, in the event of a mass fatality incident in Bedfordshire, and provides operational details of possible locations.

Establishing a single facility away from existing hospital mortuaries allows the investigation into the deaths to proceed without interference with day to day pathological requirements and visa versa. Once the deceased have been identified and the cause of death established the plan details how and when the bereaved will be able to view the bodies. It further advises on the support which will be available from responders, including police family liaison officers.

To find out more about the process, and what can be expected, please visit Disaster Action which includes first-hand accounts and advice of those who have been bereaved or affected by major incidents.

Vulnerable People Plan



What is vulnerability?

Vulnerable people and groups cannot be clearly defined. In general, vulnerability with regards to an emergency can be defined as those people or groups who may require special assistance before, during and after an emergency; those that are less able to help themselves.

People can become vulnerable due to the situation the emergency has put them in. However, there are also many pre-existing conditions that may make people more vulnerable including age, disability, language etc.

What can you do?

- If there is an emergency where there is a threat to your life, or others' call the emergency services on 999
- If you are asked to evacuate, please follow the instructions you are given. Otherwise, ['Go in, Stay in, and Tune in'](#)
- You may be entitled to a priority service during a utilities failure for example bottled water delivered to the elderly and / or disabled. Each service is different but all are OPT IN services – See the page on Energy Supply Disruption Risk and Plan
- Make sure your family is prepared for an emergency by following the advice in our [leaflet](#) and prepare an evacuation plan.
- Prepare for extremes of temperature, both hot and cold, as these can affect people's health and well-being. See our page on Severe / Adverse Weather Risk and Plan

Our Plan:

We have developed a plan to enable us to more effectively identify and support vulnerable people in the event of any type of emergency occurring.

The lead organisations are the Local Authorities and Health Organisations. However, our plan takes a multi-agency approach, to enable as many people as possible to be quickly identified from existing lists. The plan sets out triggers for activation as well as the roles and responsibilities.

As a person who maybe included on a vulnerable list kept by our partners, including by our Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC) and / or Community Emergency Response Teams, it is important for you to know that your personal details will not be shared unless absolutely necessary, and that it will only be shared to ensure that you are provided with the best possible response in an emergency.



Links:

This page includes the full web-links mentioned in this leaflet for anyone reading a printed version.

Civil Contingencies Act (2004)	http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/civil-contingencies-act
Department of Health and Public Health England websites	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england
Department of Health's leaflet – seasonal flu	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/184760/2900359-Seasonal-Flu-A5_v1_OA.pdf
Defra (Avian Flu detail)	www.defra.gov.uk
National Grid	http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Safety/Gas-emergency/
Gas Safety Register	http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/
Environment Agency Website – register for Floodline	https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/home
Environment Agency Website - flood information service	https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/
Environment Agency – Twitter feed	http://mobile.twitter.com/envagency
Environment Agency – Facebook page	https://apps.facebook.com/floodalerts/
Environment Agency – Prepare for flooding advice	https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding
Environment Agency – getting help during a flood	https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding
Environment Agency – prepare for flooding leaflet with Public Health England and The Food Standards Agency	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-planning-managing-and-recovering-from-a-flood
NHS Choices website – Flu	http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/Pages/Introduction.aspx
NHS Choices advice on Flood: cleaning up and food hygiene	http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/weather/pages/flood-safety.aspx
RAC website – driving in rain and flooding	http://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/driving-in-heavy-rain/
Environment Agency – What's in your backyard?	http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx
Met Office website	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/
Met Office website - Severe gales	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/storm.html
Met Office website - Heavy rain	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/flooding.html
Met Office website - Heavy snow and icy roads	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/snow.html
Met Office website - Thunderstorms and lightning	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/lightning.html
Met Office website - Heat and sun	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/heat.html
Met Office website - Dense fog	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/advice/foq.html
Met Office – Cold Weather Health Watch information	http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/
National Risk Register	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-for-civil-emergencies-2015-edition
NHS England – Keep Well Keep Warm	http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx
NHS England – Stay health in the winter information	http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/Winterhealth/Pages/Winterhealthhome.aspx
.gov.uk – how to drive in adverse weather conditions	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/driving-in-adverse-weather-conditions-226-to-237
Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1996/825/contents/made
Internal Drainage Board (IDB) area	http://www.idbs.org.uk/board-area-map/
Bedfordshire Prepared	https://www.bedfordshireprepared.org.uk/