

Community Information on Risks in Wales

What is the purpose of this document?

The document:

- Provides information on the range of emergencies that could occur in Wales.
- Assesses how likely these are to happen.
- Looks at what the consequences might be.
- Outlines what is being done to address the risks.
- Suggests what the public and communities can do to help themselves.



Who deals with emergencies in Wales?

- All emergency services such as the Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and the Maritime & Coastguard Agency together with partners such as local authorities and the Environment Agency Wales.
- Local Resilience Forums have been formed in the police force areas of South Wales, Gwent, North Wales and Dyfed Powys. These are partnerships made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and deal with any major emergency in Wales.

Why do we need to assess risk?

- It can help emergency services, local authorities and other agencies plan what their response might be to each emergency and identify ways in which they could work together to address each situation.
- This can help identify any gaps which can be addressed to ensure that a strong capacity can be developed to respond to any incident.

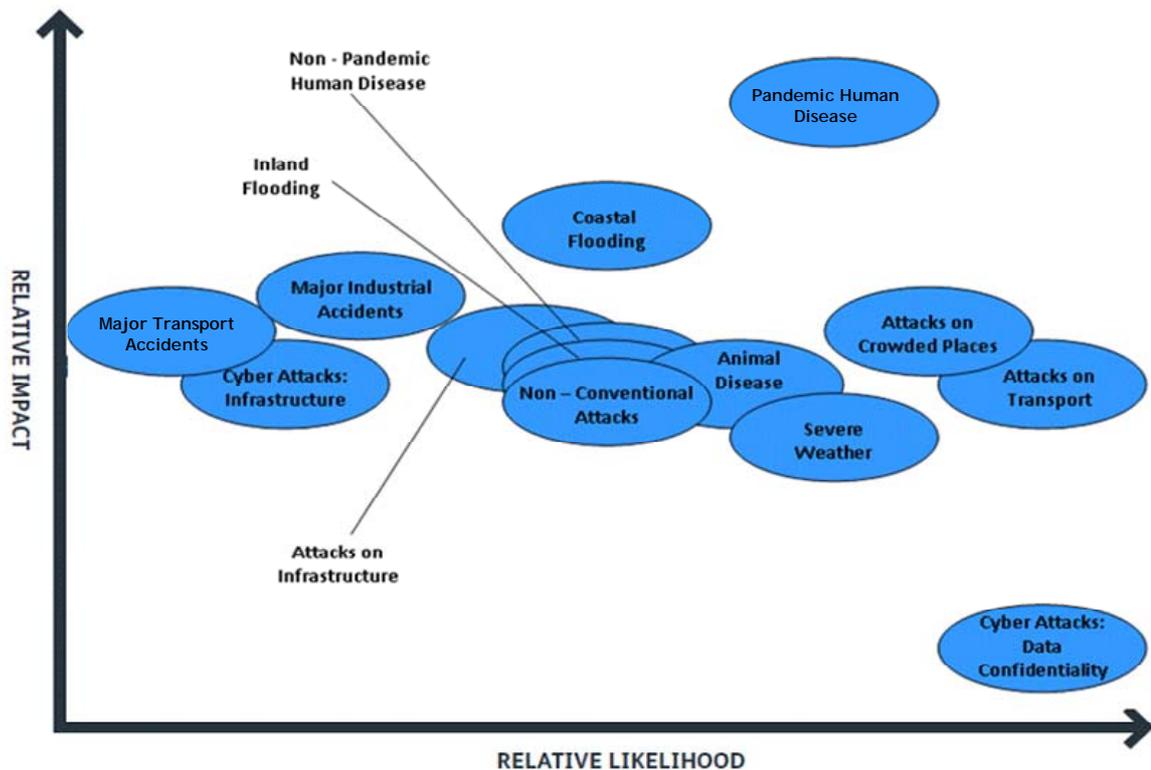
- Local Risk Registers are produced by Local Resilience Forums to look at hazards in their areas. These are known as **Community Risk Registers**.
- The risks that the UK faces are continually changing: risks emerge, threats evolve and our ability to respond to the disruptive challenges we face improves. The UK Government monitors the most significant emergencies that the United Kingdom and its citizens could face over the next five years through the **National Risk Assessment** (NRA). This confidential assessment is conducted annually and draws on expertise from a wide range of departments and agencies of government and is used in planning, including for future events such as the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The National Risk Register (NRR) is the public version which has been produced to reflect the latest iteration of the National Risk Assessment.

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/nationalriskregister-2010.pdf>

Visualisation of the Register

The figure below summarises the types of risks which currently exist. It attempts to illustrate the breadth of the high-consequence risks we face. It also gives an indication of the *relative* likelihood and impact of these types of risks in comparison to each other.

An illustration of the high consequence risks facing Wales



Local Resilience Forums, the Welsh Government and responder agencies are working together in partnership to reduce the levels of risk that exist by putting in place appropriate mitigating actions and plans.

Top Risks

1. PANDEMIC FLU

Definition

An Influenza (flu) pandemic is a worldwide event in which many people are infected with a flu virus in a short period.

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

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

Unlike a normal flu virus, which has a 'season', a flu pandemic can occur at any time.

Lead Agency – Public Health Wales

Based on historical patterns, pandemics are expected to occur on average three or four times each century. Three pandemics occurred in the 20th century ('Hong Kong' flu in 1968 – 69, 'Asian' flu in 1957 – 58 and 'Spanish' flu in 1918 – 19). The Spanish flu is estimated to have caused 20-40 million deaths worldwide.

Past pandemics have varied in scale, severity and consequence and it is impossible to forecast the precise characteristics, spread and impact of a new influenza strain.

The 2009 swine flu pandemic was a worldwide outbreak of a new strain of H1N1 influenza virus. A pandemic was declared by the World Health Organisation on 11 June 2009. By March 2010, 28 people in Wales had died from swine flu related illness, with 448 people with laboratory confirmed swine flu being admitted to hospital. At its peak just under 5000 people in Wales consulted GPs during that week but many more managed their symptoms as advised at home. Public Health Wales estimated that about 10% of the population, around 300,000 people, contracted the virus over this period.

Risk Impacts

- Many millions of people around the world will become infected, and up to around 50% may become ill with symptoms, and a variable proportion die from the disease itself or complications such as pneumonia.

- As a reasonable worst case scenario up to half of the 3 million population of Wales may become infected and up to 37,000 additional deaths (that is deaths that would not have happened over the same period of time had a pandemic not taken place) may have occurred by the end of a pandemic in Wales.
- Social and economic disruption, significant threats to the continuity of essential services because of staff shortages, lower production levels, food and fuel shortages and distribution difficulties.

Consequences

What 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 if you catch the virus.
- 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 Public Health Wales.

What are we doing in Wales?

The Welsh Government has:

- Published the *Wales Framework for Managing Major Infectious Disease Emergencies* which provides strategic guidance to assist local and national planning in Wales – including arrangements to support the *UK Influenza Pandemic Contingency Plan*.
- Purchased sufficient anti – virals to treat a clinical attack rate of 50% of the population.
- Stockpiled personal protective and clinical equipment.

Local Resilience Forums have:

- Completed multi–agency plans to respond to an influenza pandemic which take into account not only the health response but those

arrangements that need to be put in place to deal with the wider social impact.

- Plans in place to manage increased demand on Public Health Wales and Social Care Services; distribute anti viral medication to the public, and provide vaccinations.
- Considered how to raise public awareness and media management in the event of a pandemic.
- Developed options for managing excessive levels of death.

2. SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can take many different forms (heavy rain, snow, strong winds and extreme temperatures) and occasionally can cause significant disruption to normal life.

Severe wintry weather, particularly if it is prolonged, can cause substantial disruption. The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest since 1978/9. This was accentuated by periods of heavy snow in January, when the transport infrastructure was severely affected with prolonged wintry conditions diminishing salt reserves. The demand for salt was greater than the salt producing companies could supply. This resulted in disruption to public services, private sector and the general economy of Wales.

The following winter the UK experienced a period of severe winter weather with snowfall in some parts of the country reaching up to several feet. December was the coldest since 1910.

The long-term average winter temperature for Wales between 1971 and 2000 was 4.2 degrees Celsius. However, the mean temperature between 1st December 2009 and 24th February 2010 was 2.09 degrees Celsius. This compares to a 1.64 °C average in 1978/79 and the coldest winter since 1914 (1962/63) at -0.33 °C.¹

Lead agency – Will depend on the type and impacts of the severe weather.

Risk Impacts

Low temperatures and heavy snow

- Difficulty in staff getting to work. This can have a significant impact on the NHS and other services.
- Ability of ambulances to reach 999 calls and patient transport service affected.
- Ability of Fire and Rescue Services and Police to respond to 999 calls affected.
- Vulnerable people exposed to health threatening temperatures. There is a known correlation between raised levels of heart



¹ Figures provided by the Met Office

attacks, strokes and pneumonia and prolonged low temperatures.

- Increase in trauma cases.
- Travel disruption.
- Economic impact as businesses will be forced to close.
- Power and water failures.
- Possible food / fuel shortages.
- School and public building closures.

Storms and Gales

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

Heatwaves (See chapter below)

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

Heavy Rain

- See separate chapter on flooding below.

Consequences

- Consequences are varied but tend to include road and travel disruptions, increased pressures on the NHS, damage and disruption to basic utilities and damage to property.
- These have a knock on effect on the ability of organisations to deliver essential services in the community.

What you need to do

- Listen to weather forecasts and heed any warnings of extreme weather
- Check on the well-being of elderly neighbours
- Contact local schools websites to check on opening hours.
- If you have to travel in severe weather make sure you have adequate clothing and emergency supplies in your vehicle.

What are we doing in Wales?

Heavy Snow Scenarios

- Working in conjunction with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) local authorities were encouraged to increase their salt stock levels ahead of the 2010/11 winter to a level on average 50% above historical pre-season stock levels.
- The Welsh Government has funded the building of a barn in Blaenau Gwent with a storage capacity of 10,000 tons to provide local authorities with additional storage for salt supplies.
- In North Wales a storage facility has been established at Blaenau Ffestiniog as a joint arrangement between Gwynedd and the Welsh Government. The building houses 2,500 tons for Gwynedd and a strategic stock for the Welsh Government of 5,000 tons. The facility is only intended for use by Gwynedd and the Welsh Government but should shortages occur then strategic stocks will be available for release by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government is also looking at other locations which it would own and manage. Salt stocks from these locations would be released as required and appropriate.
- The WLGA and Welsh Government have a process in place to collect data twice a week on salt stock levels where necessary. This information is provided to the Salt Suppliers to help prioritise deliveries.
- Health Boards are establishing links directly with voluntary sector organisations such as 4X4 clubs and are developing plans for voluntary sector support. Work has also been done on developing a clear process of prioritisation for patient care. Health Boards are establishing contracts with the salt producers for supplies of salt for hospital roadways and estates.
- The Keep Well campaign has been launched to provide Information and support to people aged 65 and over to help them keep well, keep warm and keep safe. It provides advice on:
 - Staying healthy;

- Useful tips for heating your home effectively;
 - Information on financial support available; and
 - Steps for preparing your home for the winter.
- Choose Well – Choose The Right Health Service For Your Needs, an annual campaign designed to help Welsh patients choose the best place to get treatment if they fall ill, has been launched.
 - Work is being undertaken across Local Resilience Forum areas to develop agreements with 4X4 groups able to support the emergency response. The Ambulance Service has increased its fleet of 4x4 vehicles with 6 being delivered to South West Wales in September.
 - Utility companies review their plans regularly for severe winter as part of their business continuity plans.
 - A Wales Community Resilience Group has been established to develop and promote community resilience in Wales not only for severe winter events but also for all types of potential emergencies.
 - A number of initiatives have been taken forward by local authorities to keep schools open during severe weather. Caerphilly Council, for example, has introduced an integrated Website which allows information to be shared between Service areas so allowing Highways to understand what schools are shut so they can reprioritise what roads to clear. The site also gets head teachers to inform others why schools are shutting. Other local authorities have developed similar initiatives.

Further information which aims to provide information, advice and guidance for your area can be found on the local authorities' websites:

[Blaenau Gwent](#)

[Bridgend](#)

[Caerphilly](#)

[Cardiff](#)

[Carmarthenshire](#)

[Ceredigion](#)

[Conwy](#)

[Denbighshire](#)

[Flintshire](#)

[Gwynedd](#)

[Isle of Anglesey](#)

[Merthyr Tydfil](#)

[Monmouth](#)

[Neath Port Talbot](#)

[Newport](#)

[Pembrokeshire](#)

[Powys](#)

[Rhondda Cynon Taff](#)

[Swansea](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan](#)

[Torfaen](#)

[Wrexham](#)

3. HEATWAVE

Brief history

The Climate Change Act 2008 makes it a requirement for all statutory sectors, including the health sector, to have robust adaptation plans in place.

Extreme heat conditions are dangerous to everyone, with temperatures in Wales of 30°C or more during the day and 15°C or more during the night, regarded as having the potential to adversely affect health and well-being, particularly amongst more vulnerable population groups. The public health risks associated with extreme heat and heatwave conditions are significant and include dehydration and hyperthermia, which can further lead to shock, organ failure and even death.

Whilst Wales has a temperate climate with temperatures usually not getting too hot or too cold, extreme heat conditions and heatwaves can occur. In a heatwave in 2003, the UK experienced its hottest weather on record when temperatures were thought to be the highest in Europe for around 500 years. This hot spell resulted in over 2,000 excess deaths across England and Wales and pushed deaths among people aged over 75 years up by 60%.

Lead agency - Health and Social Care.

Risks

The possible risks are:

- Health issues and heat related illnesses - heat cramps, rashes, oedema, dizziness, fainting, exhaustion, heat stroke, shock, organ failure and even death;
- A rise in visits to GP Practices and also hospital admissions;
- Water or power supplies being suspended during the heatwave.

Consequences

- An increase on NHS and social care resources;
- Illness and death;

What do you need to do?

The key message for preventing heat-related illness and death is to:

- Listen to the weather forecast and plan ahead if you know a heat wave is on the way;
- Keep cool;

- Drink regularly;
- Keep buildings and environments cool;
- Avoid going out at the hottest part of the day (11am – 3pm);
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity like sport, DIY or gardening;
- If outdoors wear a hat, loose fitting clothes, and take plenty of water with you;
- Seek advice if you have any concerns (GPs, Pharmacist, NHS Direct Wales);
- Look out for others.

What are we doing in Wales?

The Heatwave plan for Wales aims to:

- provide details of the 'Heat-Health Watch' alert system that operates from 1st June to 15th September each year. This system is based on Met Office forecasts issued weekly to key stakeholders throughout Wales that will trigger, and determine the level of, response from the Welsh Government and other bodies to conditions of extreme heat and heatwaves;
- make relevant advice, guidance and information available for members of the public, health, social and other care professionals prior to, and during, extreme heat conditions, through the Welsh Government website. Such advice, guidance and information should be readily available and easily accessible to those who need it. This information can be further disseminated through health and social care professionals;
- strongly encourage all stakeholder agencies to develop their own plans that highlight the specific action they should take in response to conditions of extreme heat or heatwave. These plans should also identify appropriate persons to be contacted in the event of an emergency;
- support a high level of co-ordination amongst social and health care agencies to provide appropriate care to the Welsh population during heat wave conditions;
- strongly encourage all hospitals and care facilities to provide cool areas. In addition, these establishments should monitor indoor air

temperatures so that patient or resident risk of suffering heat-related morbidity and mortality is minimal;

- strongly encourage all stakeholders, particularly members of the general public, to be vigilant in observing the signs and symptoms of heat-related illness amongst friends and family, especially those who are at greater risk or more vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat conditions;
- support the development of strong working links with the media so that advice and information can be communicated promptly both before, and during, a heatwave;
- promote and facilitate long-term multi-agency planning to adapt to, and reduce the impact of, climate change, including 'greening the built environment', insulating and increasing shading around buildings, improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions;
- develop robust epidemiological surveillance arrangements to monitor and track trends in heat-related morbidity and mortality and facilitate the evaluation of intervention effectiveness. Such surveillance arrangements should also be linked closely to continuous air quality monitoring mechanisms in Wales and the Met Office 'Heat-Health Watch' alert system;
- highlight the importance of regular review, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan so as to ensure that heatwave preparedness and response arrangements in Wales are up-to-date.

4. FLOODING

Coastal and Inland Flooding

Coastal flooding has the potential to have significant impact and is forecast to increase with climate change. Consequently, a lot of work has been done to improve Wales' coastal defences. An example of severe coastal flooding was seen in Towyn during February 1990 where the sea wall was breached, resulting in flood damage to 2,800 homes and the evacuation of a further 2,000 homes. Also, during February 2008 a tidal surge threatened the South East Wales although no flooding occurred it was a reminder that significant risk to coastal communities

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.

The frequency of **inland flooding** is forecast to increase with climate change and the events in Gloucester during summer 2007, which narrowly missed South East Wales, demonstrated the serious issues that could face Wales during a flooding incident. It also highlighted that flooding outside of Wales ie. at Walham electricity sub-station can still have an impact here, where infrastructure and essential services that deliver a service to Wales eg power distribution are threatened. Localised surface flooding experienced throughout South Wales in 2007 and 2008, shows that Wales is equally vulnerable to this type of flooding.

Lead Agency

Coastal and river flooding - Environment Agency²
Surface water flooding - Local Authority
Sewerage Flooding – Water company

However, many agencies are involved in responding to floods depending on the source and scale this could range from the local authority dealing with flooding from a blocked culvert affecting a few properties or a water company dealing with a burst water main to a full coordinated multi agency response to flooding affecting hundreds of properties.

The response to flooding across agencies is explained in detail in the Wales Flood Response Framework³ (insert link)

² Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development in Wales has decided to set up new body amalgamating functions of EAW, CCW, and FCW by April 2013. It is anticipated that the new body will be Category 1 responder undertaking the Environment Agency's current responsibilities for flood risk management.

³ Wales Flood Response Framework

Reservoirs

The 2007 reservoir emergency in Ulley, North East England, also highlighted the risk reservoirs pose to communities when in danger of failing or malfunctioning. The risks are equally applicable to Wales. Usually a **reservoir** incident means a problem has been identified and there is sufficient time for the reservoir water to be lowered to reduce the risk of a reservoir failure, and to enable repairs to be carried out. In this case there may be an increased risk of localised flooding where there is an increase in releases to rivers. However, it is possible that a reservoir emergency might involve a sudden problem. If a reservoir or dam fails and there is insufficient time to reduce water levels, this could lead to the sudden release of some or all of the water. In very rare circumstances a failure may involve a dam or reservoir collapsing and large amounts of water escaping.

Reservoirs are subject to a robust safety regime and the likelihood of a complete failure is very low, and is far lower than other forms of flooding

Lead Agency

Registration and Enforcement – Environment Agency

On site emergency arrangements – Reservoir owners/operators

Off site emergency arrangements – Local Authority

RISK IMPACTS

The predicted impacts could include:

- risk to life (people and animals);
- damage to property, businesses, agricultural;
- land, roads, structures and infrastructure;
- pollution and contamination of local environments;
- long-term damage to tourism, businesses and agriculture; and
- damage to critical infrastructure.



CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- flooding of properties
- evacuation of residents

- short, medium and long-term accommodation of those whose homes are flooded
- unrecoverable damage to businesses
- disruption to utilities (electricity and water supply)
- long-term psychological and health impacts
- long-term restoration and recovery issues for homes and businesses.

What you need to do

Find out if you are at risk

The first thing you need to do is find out if your property is at risk of flooding. You can find out if you are at risk of flooding from the rivers or the sea by phoning the Environment Agency's Floodline service, or visiting www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwales and providing your postcode.

If your property is at risk of flooding, you may be able to receive free flood warnings from the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct service. You can choose to receive a flood warning by text, mobile, landline, email or pager.

Prepare for flooding

There are lots of simple, practical steps you can take to prepare for flooding.

1. *Prepare a personal flood plan.* A personal flood plan is an action plan outlining the steps you will take during a flood and contact details of all the important people you would need to get hold of in an emergency. Once completed, your flood plan should be stored in a waterproof folder and kept somewhere safe and easily accessible during a flood.
2. *Create a flood kit.* Your flood kit should contain everything you would need to take with you in case of a flood emergency or evacuation. You should include items such as food, bottled water, warm waterproof clothing, a wind up torch and radio, copies of important insurance documents, any medication you may require and baby/pet items if necessary.

To download a personal flood plan, or for more information about how to prepare for a flood please visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodwales

Alternatively you can call Floodline on 0845 9881188 for advice on flooding.

Action being taken

- The approach to flood risk has moved in recent years from being defence dominated to one centred on the principles of risk management, utilising a wide range of resilience, defence, awareness, warning, response and recovery measures.
- Welsh Government funding for flood risk has tripled since 1999 and additional funding from the European Structural Funds has been secured. Legislation has been modernised which will help move to a risk management approach through the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.
- In November 2011 the Welsh Government launched its National Strategy on Flood and Coastal Erosion risk Management⁴ which sets out its policies and objectives for the management of flood risk now and in the future.
- The recommendations contained in the Pitt Review of the 2007 floods are being implemented in Wales. There have been new systems Welsh Government has also invested in the Fire and Rescue Service to enhance its water rescue capability.
- We are gaining a greater understanding of the risks posed from all sources of flooding through improvements of mapping and modelling and this information is being shared with emergency planners and responders.
- Improvements to planning for flooding emergencies through the preparation emergency plans and exercises.
- We are working with our partners to engage with communities to explain the risks they face, what Government is doing to address those risks and also what communities can do themselves to increase their resilience to flooding. The Welsh Government has produced the Flood Risk Management Community Engagement Toolkit to help partners do this⁵

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⁴ Insert Link to strategy

⁵ Insert Link to toolkit

5. ANIMAL DISEASES

There have been a number of cases of significant notifiable animal disease in Wales over the past decade, with Foot and Mouth disease in 2001 being the most noticeable example and a high level of endemic bovine TB. Recent years have seen a number of small-scale examples of animal disease including:

Avian flu - Avian flu is a highly contagious disease in birds. An outbreak of low pathogenic H7 N2 avian influenza occurred in North Wales during May 2007, which also resulted in 17 human cases.

Bluetongue - Bluetongue is an insect-borne viral disease which can be caught by all species of ruminants. Cases of the disease appeared in first Wales during 2008. Two imported cattle tested positive for Bluetongue type 8 in Ruthin, Denbighshire in September 2009.

Bovine Tuberculosis - Bovine Tuberculosis is a chronic, debilitating, infectious disease. It has a significant impact on the health and welfare of the national cattle herd in Wales, and the rest of the UK. It is transmissible to humans and other mammals including badgers, deer and camelids, which means it has serious implications beyond the health of cattle. The incidence of bovine TB continues to have a serious impact on the farming industry, but also the Government and taxpayer in Wales as compensation is paid for livestock culled.

Lead agency: Welsh Government, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer working in conjunction with Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)

Risk Impacts:

- Damage to the Welsh livestock industry;
- Damage to the wider rural economy;
- Loss of livelihood to farmers and farm workers;
- If the disease is zoonotic (transmissible to humans) there is a human health risk to agricultural workers and potentially the wider human population;
- Significant costs incurred by Welsh Government following devolved budgets in light of contingent liability.

Consequences:

- Impact on the food chain;
- Increased food costs to consumers'
- Knock on effect on other industries such as catering and tourism.

What do you need to do?

- Inform your local Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency office if you are concerned about the health of your livestock;
- Abide by the animal movement regulations;
- Before purchasing animals check their health status;
- Protect your livestock against disease with good biosecurity and vaccinate if there is an authorised vaccine available;
- In the event of an outbreak, follow advice from the Welsh Government and AHVLA to protect your livestock and limit possible spread of disease.

What are we doing?

- Welsh Government has a Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases, which is revised and updated annually. The Welsh plan complements the GB & Northern Ireland Plan that is being produced by AHVLA.
- Raising awareness within the farming community of the need to observe good biosecurity.
- Working with the industry to help them protect and eradicate notifiable animal diseases, in particular those on the priority list of the Welsh Government Animal Health and Welfare Steering Group.
- Working with industry to protect against and to limit the spread of bovine TB.
- Putting in place the appropriate legislative framework.

6. RADIATION INCIDENTS

The Department for Energy & Climate Change is the lead Government Department for the planning and response phase for an off-site nuclear emergency at a civil site in England and Wales and chairs the Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group (NEPLG) which brings together organisations with interests in off-site civil nuclear emergency planning to agree improvements in planning, procedures and organisation.

The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPPIR) require local authorities that have in their area premises and rail transport operations where storage levels exceed certain thresholds to prepare a multi-agency off-site emergency plan to protect the public from the effects of a radiation emergency.

In addition, under Regulation 17 REPPPIR, all local authorities must prepare plans to supply information and advice to the public about any kind of Radiation Emergency which may affect them.

In the event of emergency a multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group will manage the response to the incident at the local level. Once the situation has been brought under control the lead will pass to the local authority for the recovery phase. The Welsh Government will co-ordinate briefing for the Welsh Ministers and will support both the police and the local authority and the other agencies involved in dealing with the incident

Wales has two nuclear power stations: Wylfa, which is still generating, and Trawsfynydd, which has ceased generating and is being decommissioned. Nuclear licensed sites in the UK have to produce, maintain and test emergency plans for offsite releases of radioactivity. They are required by the Office of Nuclear Regulation to demonstrate the effectiveness of emergency arrangements and this includes holding regular exercises involving all agencies that have a role in responding to a nuclear power station accident. Trawsfynydd and Wylfa are owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and operated by Magnox Ltd.

Risk Impacts

The risk will depend on the severity of any accident but might require evacuation of the area surrounding the power station, restrictions on travel to the area, limitations on the use of foodstuffs produced in the area or downwind, etc. People living in the detailed emergency planning zone (DEPZ) have been provided with potassium iodate tablets should these become needed in an emergency. Potassium iodate tablets are not required for an accident at Trawsfynydd.

Consequences

Long-term consequences will again depend on the severity of any accident and might include decontamination of the area, and limitations on the sale of affected foodstuffs.

What do you need to do?

- People living in the DEPZ will be informed of any incident.
- The standing advice is to go in (go indoors and close all doors and windows), stay in, and tune in (to the local radio station). Further advice and information will be provided as necessary.

What are we doing in Wales?

- All nuclear power stations are required to hold regular exercises to test their emergency procedures should an offsite release of radioactivity occur. These exercises involve the emergency services, health services, local authorities and specialist advice services.
- The Welsh Government liaises with the local and UK centres during these exercises. In addition the Welsh Government regularly liaises with the local and all-Wales resilience groups in preparation for a range of emergencies.

7. MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS

The most recent major marine pollution incident affecting Welsh waters was the Sea Empress incident in 1996 when the grounding of a very large crude carrier (oil tanker) at the entrance to Milford Haven resulted in over 70,000 tonnes of crude oil being released and extensive coastal pollution of the Pembrokeshire coastline.

Lead agency for offshore response and clean up is the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Coastal local authorities are responsible for shoreline response and clean-up.

Risk Impacts

- Pollution of sea water, beaches and shoreline.
- Damage to designated marine and coastal protected areas and the environment and wildlife generally.
- Health risk to local residents and holidaymakers.

Consequences

- Economic impact on fisheries, agriculture, tourism and other coastal businesses.
- Closure of ports affecting movement of passengers and freight.

What do you need to do?

- In the event of an incident members of the public are advised where possible to stay away from polluted areas and listen for advice and information on local radio stations.

What are we doing in Wales?

- The Welsh Government regularly liaises with the local and all-Wales resilience groups in preparation for a range of emergencies.

8. OTHER MAJOR ACCIDENTS

Definition

Industrial accidents and their impacts can vary considerably in scale and nature.

Incidents of this kind in Wales include:

- the blast furnace explosion at the Port Talbot steelworks in November 2001 when 3 people died.
- The fire at the Texaco Oil Refinery in Pembrokeshire, March 2005.
- The explosion at the Chevron refinery in Milford Haven in June 2011 when 4 people died.
-
- On 17th September 2011 a retaining wall holding back a body of water collapsed in at the Gleision Colliery in the Swansea Valley resulting in 4 fatalities.

The Fforestfach Industrial Estate Fire that took place in June 2011 involved an estimated 5,000 tonnes of tyre waste which had an economic cost of millions of pounds.



Risk Impacts

- Serious injury or death
- Pollution

What are we doing in Wales?

- In 2007 the Government and the Competent Authorities (HSE and Environment Agency) published their response to two of the Major Incident Investigation Board reports into the Buncefield Incident which occurred in December 2005. The response describes progress made

by site operators, the Competent Authority and Government to meet the recommendations in the reports.

- A Civil Contingencies Conference is taking place in February 2012 which aims to consider the lessons learned from the four incidents which have occurred in Wales over the summer, namely; the Gleision Colliery incident, the Chevron oil refinery incident, the Fforestfach tyre fire and the Brynglas Tunnel Fire.
- The lessons learned from the debriefs for the incidents mentioned above will be implemented by the appropriate agency/agencies.

9. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION

In 2005 an outbreak of Cryptosporidium (a severe stomach bug) in North Wales was declared and as a precautionary measure Dwr Cymru issued a 'Boil Water Notice' to residents receiving water from the infected Cwellyn reservoir. If such an incident takes place in Wales, the Environment Agency will be at the scene monitoring the situation and working with relevant specialist to secure the area from further contamination.

Risk Impacts

- Severe illness for those affected

What are we doing in Wales?

- Following this outbreak a report was issued and recommended that the Chief Medical Officer for Wales should consider the lessons learned, and identified a need for updated expert advice on cryptosporidium and the water supply.
- The Security and Emergency Measures Direction of 1998 places a statutory requirement on water companies in England and Wales in relation to emergency planning. All water companies have plans in place to provide a suitable response to any major water incident.

10. OTHER MAJOR ACCIDENTS

Brief history

Transport accidents occur across Wales on a daily basis and there are well practiced plans in place to deal with these at a local and regional level. One such example of a major transport accident in Wales is the closure of the Brynglas tunnel that took place on the 26 July 2011 when a lorry caught fire, this led to the closure of the tunnel for several days.



Lead agency – Police. However, British Transport Police will lead where there are incidents which involve rail transport.

Risks

- Potential to cause wide spread disruption to the travelling public.
- Adverse impact on the Welsh economy

Consequences

- Economic impact on roads, businesses and all aspects of travel within Wales.

What do you need to do?

- In the event of an incident members of the public are advised where possible to stay away from affected areas and listen for advice and information on local radio stations.

What are we doing in Wales?

- Plans to respond to major incidents on the trunk road networks in Wales are currently being reviewed. The intention is for these plans to dovetail into the generic response plans which exist within the Local Resilience Forum areas of North Wales, Dyfed-Powys, South Wales and Gwent. The plans will cover not only the response to incidents but also the provision of welfare to those who may be caught for long periods in the wake of such incidents.
- The Welsh Government has instructed its trunk road agents to prepare contingency plans in conjunction with local authorities and the emergency services to mitigate the effects of major accidents and incidents on the network.

- Arriva Trains Wales produces a monthly high level report on operational incidents. The Welsh Government meets on a monthly basis with Arriva Trains Wales to discuss the report and any operational safety issues. Both also meet the Department of Transport on a quarterly basis to discuss any issues.

11. TERRORISM

Wales, as part of the UK, faces a serious and sustained threat from terrorism. Whilst we have recently seen some significant changes in the threat from international terrorism, with Al Qaeda's leadership being weaker than at any time since the 9/11 attacks; we must remain cognisant that the threat posed to the safety and security to the communities of Wales is wider than Al Qaeda's terrorist threat. Other terrorist and extremist groups (which includes Irish Dissident Terrorists and other Domestic Extremist Groups) maintain aspirations to attack our interests without warning whilst using both conventional and unconventional means

Experience and the assessment of the risk of attack posed by such groups informs us that attacks using both traditional methods and more novel methods such as cyber attack could be experienced in Wales against:

- **Crowded Places** - While there have been attacks against well protected targets around the world, crowded places remain an attractive target for a terrorist attack with the potential for attacks to take place without warning.
- **National Infrastructure** - The national infrastructure comprises those facilities, systems, sites and networks necessary for the functioning of the country and the delivery of the essential services on which daily life in the UK depends. These fundamental services, such as electricity and water supply, ensure that the country continues to function socially and economically.
- **Attacks on transport systems** - Of the different malicious attacks that could occur, conventional attacks on transport systems are judged to be some of the more likely to occur against road, rail and air services. To date, no attack against maritime interests in the UK has been mounted by terrorists. *However, the likelihood of such incidents is still extremely low.*
- **Unconventional attacks** - The events of 9/11 showed that mass impact terrorist events, while unlikely, cannot be ruled out. The likelihood of terrorists successfully undertaking an attack against a nuclear or chemical facility or obtaining chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) material remains low but is not negligible.
- **Cyber attack** - The internet has become central to our economy and our society. Increasing our reliance on cyber space brings new opportunities but also new threats. While cyber space fosters open markets and open societies, this very openness can also make us more vulnerable to those – criminals, hackers, foreign intelligence services – who want to harm us by compromising or damaging our

critical data and systems the impacts of which would be felt in the UK economy, in our critical national infrastructure and in society generally.

Risk Impacts

- Acts of terrorism may involve the use of weapons such as chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear substances; as well as the growing threat posed by Cyber attacks.

Consequences

- Possible significant loss of life and mass casualties
- Widespread disruption to critical infrastructure including energy and communications.
- Detrimental economic and commercial impact and social disruption

What you need to do

- Remain vigilant at all times.
- If you know of a threat to national security or you want to report suspicious activity you can:
 - call the police counter-terrorism hotline on 0800 789 321
 - contact the Security Service (MI5) directly:
<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/how-you-can-help-us.html>
- You can also report extremist and terrorist website content(Opens in a new window) on the Directgov website:
- http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/CrimeJusticeAndTheLaw/Counterterrorism/DG_183993
- You can remain anonymous, and you may save lives.
- In an emergency you should always call 999.

What we are doing in Wales

The UK Government's counterterrorism strategy, CONTEST, is applied in Wales. This is an integrated approach based on four main work streams, each with a clear objective to reduce the risk to the UK from international terrorism. Further information on CONTEST can be found at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/counter-terrorism/uk-counter-terrorism-strat/>

CONTEST activity in Wales involves:

Pursue: stopping terrorist attacks

- The highly developed Counter Terrorist Police Network is represented in Wales by the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit. (WECTU)

Prevent: stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

- Wales has experienced marked success within PREVENT over the last two years. This vital element of CONTEST is only achieved by joint working between our communities and stakeholders such as Welsh Government, Local Authorities, WECTU and the four Police Forces in Wales.

Protect: strengthening our protection against a terrorist attack

- Counter Terrorist Security Advisors in WECTU deliver advice and guidance to businesses, public sectors and agencies on how to reduce vulnerability and the impact of the actions of terrorists and violent extremists. The advice given supports the delivery of a safer Wales across serious organised crime as well other civil emergencies.

Prepare: where an attack cannot be stopped, mitigating its impact

- Within Wales the Local Resilience Forums and Category 1 & 2 responders defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004- work together with the Welsh Government and other agencies to plan joint responses to the risk posed by Terrorism. Where possible these plans are multi-agency and are based on generic responses.