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# Community Risk Register for Cumbria 2021



# Introduction

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- The Community Risk Register provides information on the biggest emergencies that could happen in Cumbria, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the impacts if they do. This includes the impacts to people, their houses, the environment and local businesses.

# Cumbria Local Resilience Forum

The Cumbria Local Resilience Forum is a partnership, made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency in the Local Resilience Forum area. The Forum covers Cumbria, and includes the emergency services, local authorities, the Environment Agency, the Maritime Coastguard Agency and health agencies along with voluntary and private agencies. Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) every part of the United Kingdom is required to establish a resilience forum.



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# What is the Community Risk Register?

The Cumbria Local Resilience Forum legally has to produce an assessment of the likelihood and impact of a range of risks. Cumbria's Community Risk Register helps identify emerging issues and also situations where a risk may be increasing or decreasing in Cumbria.

**Risk Matrix**

|                            |                     |         |                |            |                 |           |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <b>Relative Impact</b>     | Catastrophic<br>(5) | HIGH    | VERY HIGH      | VERY HIGH  | VERY HIGH       | VERY HIGH |
|                            | Significant<br>(4)  | MEDIUM  | HIGH           | VERY HIGH  | VERY HIGH       | VERY HIGH |
|                            | Moderate<br>(3)     | MEDIUM  | MEDIUM         | HIGH       | HIGH            | HIGH      |
|                            | Minor<br>(2)        | LOW     | MEDIUM         | MEDIUM     | MEDIUM          | MEDIUM    |
|                            | Limited<br>(1)      | LOW     | LOW            | LOW        | LOW             | LOW       |
|                            |                     | Low (1) | Medium Low (2) | Medium (3) | Medium High (4) | High (5)  |
| <b>Relative Likelihood</b> |                     |         |                |            |                 |           |



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# Common Consequences

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- It is reasonable to say that many of the emergencies that could result from the risks and threats could cause similar problems; for example many people could be killed or injured.
- There may be risks whereby the proximity of the risk is well understood and in these cases it would be reasonable to plan for specific consequences.
- However, we generally don't have any specific information about when these risks will occur.
- Looking at the consequences from each risk and threat occurring Cumbria Local Resilience Forum are able to build up a picture of the most important areas of work to plan in detail for.
- Common consequences give a clear priority for generic work that will benefit many risks, copes with combinations of "lesser" risks and their simultaneous impacts and makes best use of the resources available.

The Common Consequences were established using the following process:

- Identify with each risk the challenge, loss or issues which may arise.
- Group those challenge, loss or issues into common consequences and identify those with potential high likelihood or linked to the very high risks.
- Identify the existing plans and any further planning which would address these.
- Use these top Common Consequences to prioritise work. The following are the Common Consequences identified.



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# Prolonged Public Outrage and/or Behavioural Change

- It is understandable that all Major Incidents lead to behavioural changes and outrage, although these can range from just avoiding an area to widespread calls for Government reprisals.
- Information and guidance can help the public be better prepared for Major Incidents, including the emotional consequences. Information can be found on Cumbria County Council's Website, with links to specific information such as Flooding Risk on Gov.uk



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# Health Services Disrupted

- The nature of such disruptive challenges can vary considerably across the county (and beyond) where at any given moment, for example, local terrain and transport infrastructure can influence the provision of local healthcare through community services, or affecting attendance at local acute hospitals



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# Disruption to Education

- Schools can be affected by a number of incidents such as severe weather and flooding, or infrastructure loss such as power outage.
- It may be necessary to close temporarily due to inaccessibility or risk of injury.



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# Disruption to Emergency Services

- Major Incidents can cause significant to Emergency Services. Business Continuity Plans are developed to ensure critical services can still be de-livered.
- Although Business Continuity is a key element of preparation and risk management, during a Major Incident often only critical activities can be undertaken.



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# Displaced People

- Many emergency scenarios lead to displaced people who are often evacuated for their own safety. Local Authorities take the lead in accommodating people displaced in an emergency incident.
- Although many people will seek shelter with friends and family a key area of planning to mitigate this consequence is the Emergency Assistance Centre Plan.



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# Fatalities and casualties

- Those that are injured or die in emergencies have to be cared for properly. Cumbria Local Resilience Forum has to consider the consequences of a large number of fatalities or casualties in the event of any incident.



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# Transport Network Disrupted

- Many communities within Cumbria are in rural locations and rely heavily on the road transport system. A variety of incidents have the potential to disrupt the transport system, such as flooding or heavy snow. The road and rail networks can require long and difficult diversions and alternatives if they are disrupted.
- Disrupted transport networks also affect the response agencies' access to a community, leading to a reliance on Community Resilience



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# Rubble and Debris Affecting the Response Site

- Most emergency scenarios create rubble or debris to some extent; this could be localised or over a wide area. Rubble and debris can include contaminated material such as flood residuals or radiological. Contaminated or not, there is usually a clear up, often on a wide scale that needs to be managed.



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# Top Non Malicious Risks

Combination of Incidents

Influenza-type Pandemic

Inland Flooding

National Electricity Transmission



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# Combination of incidents

A combination of small incidents can create a large high impact incident. Cumbria Local Resilience Forum prepares plans to address key risks identified from the Cumbria Community Risk Register but they don't have a plan for every risk. To deal with risks which don't have a specific plan or are completely unforeseen, such as a combination of small incidents, there is the Cumbria General Emergency Response Plan.



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# Influenza Type Pandemic

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

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 normal flu virus, which has a 'season' (October to May in the UK), a flu pandemic can occur at any time. Based on what has happened during previous pandemics, a pandemic is likely to occur in one or more waves, possibly weeks or months apart. Each





# Inland Flooding

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As the events of 2005, 2009 and 2015 showed, flooding can take different forms and, at its most serious, can affect many different aspects of our daily lives.

Over the coming years rising temperatures and sea levels, and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events are likely to raise the risk of flooding in the UK.

Excluding coastal flooding, the other main types are; river flooding, surface water flooding caused by excess rainfall and groundwater flooding caused by a high water table.



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# National Electricity Transmission

Electricity failure can occur at a local level, across an entire region, or at a national level. The impacts of electricity failure events will vary with scale.

The most recent event that left large parts of the GB network without power occurred in October 1987 when severe storms led to the failure of supplies in the south east. Whilst this was not a complete failure, stations in the affected area did successfully implement their a plan and form power islands, thus demonstrating the principle behind developing emergency plans for failure up to total failure.

Cumbria is no more vulnerable than GB as a whole for total failure of the National Electricity Network, however such an incident would have a protracted recovery timescale going well beyond reinstatement of the power.



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# Malicious Risks

The nature of terrorism is changing. It is becoming more diverse, more complex and increasingly dispersed and volatile - both domestically and overseas.

The UK is still confronted by enduring threats from Islamist terrorism and Northern Ireland dissidents, as well as emerging right-wing, left-wing, anarchist and single-issue terrorist threats

The National Risk Assessment is focused on preparing for emergencies and mitigating the impact of terrorist attacks (the Prepare workstream of CONTEST) but has links with all of the CONTEST workstreams outlined below:

- Pursue: stopping terrorist attacks
- Prevent: stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect: strengthening our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: where an attack cannot be stopped, mitigating its impact.



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

### What can you do to be better prepared in your home?

Some emergencies require evacuation, and some require staying put - are you ready?

Please see our website ([www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)) or contact us for a copy of our leaflet

Are you ready?

- In the case of most major emergencies, the simple advice is to go inside, stay inside, and tune into local radio.
- In certain situations you may be asked to leave your home by the emergency services.
- If this happens please leave as quickly and calmly as possible, remembering your grab bag.
- Returning home after an emergency remember to listen to advice from emergency services or local authorities about any specific actions which you must follow.



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# Suggested grab bag contents

- House Emergency Plan.
- Important documents.
- Torch.
- Radio.
- Medicines.
- Copies of prescription slips, toiletries and feminine hygiene supplies.
- Childcare supplies (nappies, food, toys, clothes etc).
- Change of clothes.
- Extra set of house & car keys.
- Mobile phone & charger.
- Wallet, purse, bank cards.
- Notebook and pencil.
- Black bag or bin liner.
- Pet carrier, collar, lead & food.
- Bottled water & snacks.



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# How can your Local Community be More Prepared?

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## Emergency plan for communities

The Communities sub group of Cumbria Local Resilience Forum has produced a number of resources to help communities plan how they could assist in the response to local emergencies.

Early action on the ground can help reduce the initial impact of an emergency and help communities prepare for the longer term recovery. These resources enable communities to produce their own plans.

For further information:

Please contact ACTion with Communities in Cumbria on Tel: 01228 817224 or visit our website: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk)



# Want to Know More?

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The Community Risk Register is produced by the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum

Contact us: For any enquiries regarding the individual risk assessments or any aspect of the work of Cumbria Local Resilience Forum please contact us at [emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk) or write to us at:

Resilience Unit  
Cumbria Fire & Rescue HQ  
Carleton Avenue  
Penrith  
CA10 2FA

All enquiries will be dealt with within 28 days. Specific risk enquiries will be forwarded to the lead agency for that risk or area of work. If you wish to find out more [www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/emergencyplanning)



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