MERSEYSIDE RESILIENCE FORUM

TOGETHER WE ARE PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES



Merseyside Community Risk Register



2026

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

What is the Community Risk Register?

A Community Risk Register is a document held by all Local Resilience Forums (LRFs), which provides information on the most significant risks that could impact communities in their local areas, including their likelihood of occurring and the potential severity of their consequences – generally referred to as the 'reasonable worst case scenario'. The aim of the Community Risk Register is to help you as an individual prepare your home, business and local community for an emergency.

Nationally, risks are identified and assessed by the Government and subsequently published in the National Risk Register (NRR). This then informs the Community Risk Register, which is developed locally with multi-agency partners and subject matter experts, through the LRF risk assessment group. It is a statutory duty to publish all or part of the Community Risk Register to enable members of the public to plan and prepare, as necessary.

This Community Risk Register (CRR) has been compiled by the Merseyside Resilience Forum (MRF) to identify potential risks that may affect the communities of Merseyside. The MRF is a collaboration of multi-agency services / partners working together to prepare for emergencies on Merseyside, including.

British Transport Police (BTP)
Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board
Health & Safety Executive (HSE)
Liverpool City Council
Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS)
Mersey Tunnels Police
NHS England
National Highways
Port of Liverpool Police
SP Energy Networks
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
UK Health Security Agency
Cadent
Environment Agency (EA)
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Liverpool City Region – Combined Authority
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Merseyside Police
Met Office
National Grid (Gas)
North West Ambulance Service (NWAS)
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
United Utilities

The CRR provides the basis for the responder agencies to develop emergency plans and provides a guide for the preparedness work carried out by the MRF.

The CRR is also intended to inform the public - individuals, families and businesses - on the range of potential disruptive events that these agencies have considered when making their plans, and to provide assurance that they are ready to deal with these emergencies to provide resilience for the communities that they serve.

Why is it relevant to you?

The Community Risk Register identifies the risks that have the highest likelihood of happening, which could have a significant impact in Merseyside. Some risks may be more relevant to you than others - e.g. if you live near a river or in a low-lying location, flooding may be a risk - whereas other incidents, such as power cuts, could affect any of us at any time, so being prepared is vital.

Plans are put in place to set out how the partnership of agencies in the MRF would respond to each of the risks and these plans are reviewed and tested on a regular basis. However, there are also actions you can take yourself to ensure you are prepared for any emergencies or incidents that may occur. Understanding the risks you may face will help you better prepare for them should they arise.

Information for individuals, households and communities on preparing for emergencies can be found on the Merseyside Prepared website or on the Government's Prepare website.

How has the Community Risk Register Been Compiled?

The Government assesses hazards and threats that could affect the United Kingdom. These are published in the National Risk Register. It explains the likelihood of a risk occurring and, if it happens, the effects it may have.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) all areas of the United Kingdom are required to establish a local resilience forum within the local Police Force area. The CCA places a legal duty on local emergency responders to carry out assessments on the risks to their area and publish them.

The Community Risk Register prioritises risks at a Merseyside (local) level. It is a document that shows which risks have been identified to affect Merseyside. The likelihood of an event occurring has been assessed using historical evidence and projected occurrence data relating to the risk occurring. The potential impact of such an emergency has been assessed regarding welfare of the community, essential services, the local economy and local environment in accordance with national guidance.

The inclusion of these hazards does not mean that the Merseyside Resilience Forum (MRF) believes the risk will materialise, or that if it were to do so, it would be at that scale. The risk scenarios are considered to be reasonable worst case assumptions upon which our risk assessment is based. The likelihood and impact assessments have been used to develop a Risk Rating of Low, Medium, High or Very High. This is displayed on the Risk Matrix

The risk index and matrix shows non-malicious and certain malicious events. This does not mean that we are not considering all malicious threats within our risk assessment work, but given the sensitivity of the information supporting these risk assessments and the potential for use by adversaries, specific details will not be made available via this document.



Over 645 Km²

1.5 million people



5 Local Authorities

Knowsley Council

Liverpool City Council

Sefton Council

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

WIRRAL

Merseyside is a multi-cultural and multi-faith community. It is a diverse metropolitan area and is a mix of urban and rural areas.

Merseyside borders Lancashire (to the north-east), Greater Manchester (to the east), and Cheshire (to the south and south-west); the Irish Sea is to the west. North Wales is across the Dee Estuary.

There is a mix of high density urban areas, suburbs, semi-rural and rural locations across Merseyside, but overwhelmingly the land use is urban. It has a focused central business district, formed by Liverpool City Centre, but Merseyside is also a polycentric county with five metropolitan districts, each of which has at least one major town centre and outlying suburbs. The Liverpool Urban Area is the fifth most populous conurbation in England, and dominates the geographic centre of the county, while the smaller Birkenhead Urban Area dominates the Wirral Peninsula in the south.

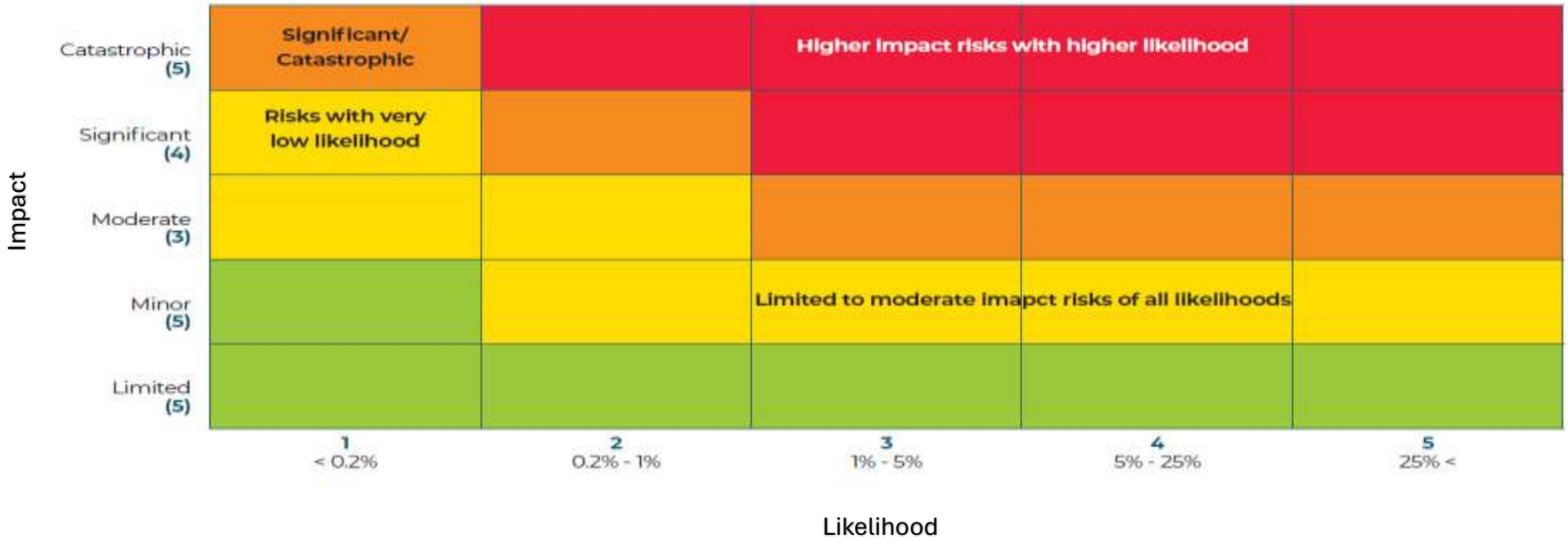
Following significant investment in Liverpool City Centre, the biggest retail development of its kind in Europe – Liverpool One – was officially opened in 2008. The Port of Liverpool, a barometer for the success of the whole of Merseyside, is the largest freeport zone in the UK and the main UK port for container trade with the USA. The cruise terminal opened in 2007 offers berths to several cruise lines bringing in thousands of tourists, whilst Liverpool John Lennon Airport is one of the fastest growing regional airports in Europe offering domestic and international flights.

Merseyside has a well-developed and evolving transport network, including an extensive rail system, with major stations in Liverpool City Centre offering frequent connections to cities across the UK. Merseyside also has excellent road networks with two road tunnels connecting both sides of the River Mersey plus the M53, M57, M58 and M62 motorways providing strong links to the rest of the UK.

Despite considerable investment and regeneration within the Merseyside region, there remain areas of significant social and economic deprivation with the region remaining among the most deprived areas within the UK.

Chapter 3 – The Risks

Risk Matrix



a) High impact risks

Any risk that falls within the red parts of the matrix is classed as a high impact 'RED' risk. These risks are likely to require specific planning and possibly unique capabilities in order to respond to them effectively. Planning and mitigation measures are likely to require multi-agency, cross-government input and have national plans, coordinated by a lead government department, in place. LRFs will undertake regular training and practice of the response to these risks, monitoring the risks on a regular basis.

b) Significant/Catastrophic risks with very low likelihood

Risks that fall into the top left corner of the matrix, those with low likelihoods but very high and/or catastrophic impacts, can be managed in a range of ways. Using evidence-based judgement, LRFs decide whether specific planning is required or whether generic capability development against common consequences will suffice. As with red risks, multi-agency, cross-government input and coordination may be required, alongside regular training and practice of response plans.

c) Limited to moderate impact risks of all likelihoods

Risks sitting in the bottom half of the matrix, those with a range of likelihoods but impacts ranging from low to moderate, can be managed with generic planning only. LRFs identify the most severe common consequences of these risks, subsequently planning and prioritising capability development against these consequences. Those risks falling into the green area will require only minimal monitoring and control, unless a change in local circumstances or a future risk assessment shows a substantial shift, prompting a move to another risk category.

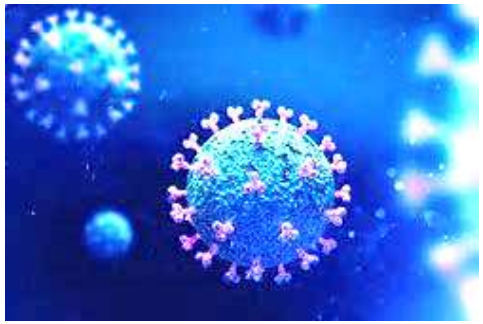
Local Risk Assessment Matrix

IMPACT					
5			**Failure of National Electricity**	**Pandemic**	
4		Loss of PNT Services	Low Temperatures & Snow Surface Water Flooding	Severe Space Weather Emerging Infectious Disease	
3	Passenger Vessel Accident Aviation Collision Fire at a Major Hazard Site (COMAH) Chemical Release from Major Hazard Site (COMAH) Fire on Offshore Installation Fire at Onshore Major Hazard Pipeline Animal Disease - African Horse Sickness Animal Disease – African Swine Fever	Disruption to Space-Based Services Reservoir / Dam Collapse Failure of Water Infrastructure Volcanic Eruption Drought Animal Disease – Foot & Mouth	Loss of Telecommunications Failure of Regional Electricity Failure of Gas Supply Technical Failure - Retail Bank Humanitarian Crisis Overseas High Temperatures and Heatwaves Poor Air Quality	Food Supply Contamination British Nationals Arriving from Overseas	Technical Failure - Financial Market Disaster Response Overseas
2	Maritime Pollution Incident Fire at Onshore Fuel Pipeline Accidental Release of Hazardous Pathogen Aviation Crash at Sea	Rail Accident Major Fire	Insolvency of Supplier to Public Sector Storms Coastal Flooding River Flooding Animal Disease – Avian Influenza Public Disorder	Social Care Provider Failure Plant Pest – Agrilus Planipennis	
1	Vessel Blocking Major Port Radiation Exposure – Transport/Stolen/Lost Earthquake	Wildfire Tunnel Incident Motorway Incident Building Collapse Fire at Waste/Recycling Site	Road Accident Involving Dangerous Goods	Insolvency Affecting Fuel Supply	Plant Pest – Xylella Fastidiosa Groundwater Pollution
	1	2	3	4	5
			LIKELIHOOD		

Malicious Attacks: For information on Malicious Attacks see the National Risk Register

Top Risks on Merseyside
(in no particular order)

Pandemic



Severe Weather



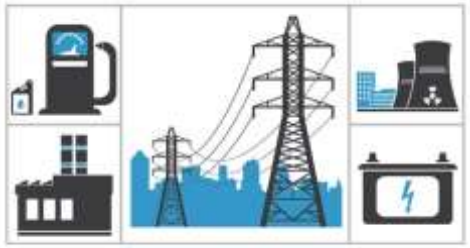
Surface Water Flooding



Cyber



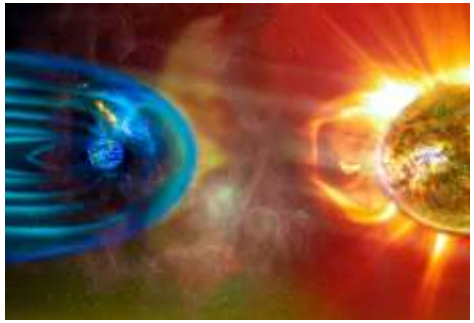
Loss of Essential Services



Emerging Infectious Diseases



Space Weather



Terrorism



Chapter 4 – What are we doing?

Multi-agency Preparedness

The MRF's overall purpose is to ensure the partnership of agencies work together to develop a proportionate level of **preparedness** to enable an effective multi-agency **response to** and **recovery from** emergency incidents that may have a significant impact upon the communities of Merseyside.



Chapter 5 – Further Information

To view the National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies please visit the Government website via the link below:

National Risk Register - 2025 edition

To view the Cabinet Office Guidance for Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response & Recovery please visit the Government website via the links below:

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Response and Recovery

Further information is also available on the Merseyside Prepared website via the links below:

www.merseysideprepared.org.uk

If you have any further queries, please contact:

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