

North Community Risk Register 2024



North of Scotland

RRP

Regional Resilience Partnership



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Introduction

What is a Community Risk Register?

This Community Risk Register (CRR) highlights risks that have the highest likelihood and potential to have significant impact, causing disruption to the North of Scotland region and its communities, as defined in the map on [page 2](#).

This document will provide information which will:

- Inform you about the highest risks and their consequences in the North of Scotland region.
- Provide you with links to organisations and websites to find out more.
- Encourage steps that can be taken to allow you to become better prepared and more resilient in your home, business and community.

While certain risks are mentioned it does not mean that they will definitely occur in the North of Scotland region.

It does mean there may be a possibility of them happening and this document will provide information about what can be done if any of them do occur, and how you can prepare and stay informed.

You should also use this information in conjunction with local knowledge and advice from the emergency services, agencies, local health boards and your local authority. Contact details can be found on [page 25](#).

Who is this document for?

Whenever an emergency¹ occurs, it has the potential to affect you and those around you in a number of ways.

This document will highlight some of the different ways in which this could happen, ranging from how it affects you, the individual, to the broader North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) region.



You

How you could be affected in your daily life



Your Family

How those close to you could be affected



Your Business

What it could mean for your business



Your Community

What the effects could be to your local community



Your Region

How the overall region could be affected

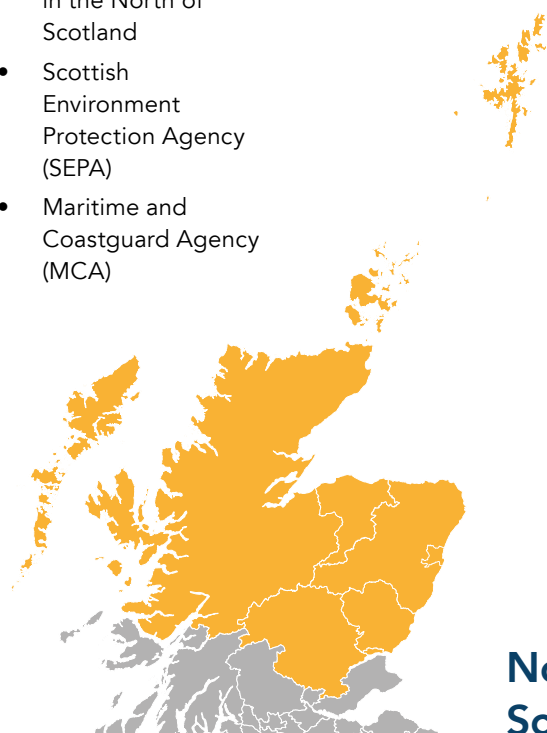
¹ To aid understanding and continuity throughout the CRR, the term 'emergency' is being used to cover all types of disruptive events, incidents and accidents which may occur as a result of an identified potential risk.

Resilience Partnership Profile

The North of Scotland RRP comprises organisations that are legally required to prepare for, respond to and recover from major disruptions and emergencies in the North of Scotland region. The partnership works to enhance the safety and resilience of the region and its communities by supporting and coordinating three Local Resilience Partnerships across the North.

Examples of organisations which make up this multi-agency partnership include, but are not limited to:

- Local Authorities in the North of Scotland RRP
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS Health Boards in the North of Scotland
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Meteorological Office
- Utility companies
- Voluntary sector
- Integrated Joint Boards
- Health & Social Care Partnerships



**North of
Scotland Region**

How is a Community Risk Register created?

The CRR is the result of risk assessments carried out by the multi-agency partnership to identify the likely risks in the area and rate them in terms of their potential impact and likelihood of occurring. The results of these assessments are used to inform the partnership and produce agreed and effective multi-agency plans and procedures.

This document is the result of professional judgement from a range of contributors, historical evidence, scientific input and expert analysis in evaluating the key risks facing the North of Scotland RRP region. It forms part of the resilience partnership's legal requirements under The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (Reg 12).

The specific risks identified in this document are ones that are viewed to have the potential to cause significant disruption to peoples' lives should they occur in the North of Scotland.

This CRR forms just one aspect of the partnership's work in preparing for emergencies and sharing information to increase the overall resilience of the region.

Area Emergency Profile

North of Scotland

The area covered by the North of Scotland RRP represents approximately 55,265 km squared, or 70% of the total land mass of Scotland. The region is characterised by having vast geographic diversity from the remote and rural North, to the distinctive Island communities and the urban centres of Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness and Perth. Its huge coastline approaches 11,000 km in length and lies in a very strategic position in the North Atlantic, effectively bordering Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland. In the event of a major incident in the North Atlantic or North Sea, the region would be heavily involved in the response.

There are a significant number of hazardous sites across the North of Scotland region. This reflects the rural nature of the area and positioning of industrial and military hazardous sites away from the main centres of Scottish population density. The region has a significant nuclear decommissioning industry, major oil and gas exploration and production sector and an increasingly important rural and sustainable energy sector. There are many offshore installations and a large number of pipeline locations, and industry locations which regularly use hazardous substances.

While the average population density in the UK is 108 persons per square km; the average density in Scotland is 27 persons per square km. The North of Scotland has a wide range in population density with many parts of the North and North West of the region having a population density often as low as 3 persons per square km. Outside of the main population hubs of Inverness, Dundee, Perth and Aberdeen the rural nature of the geography makes for a dispersed settlement pattern and a rural economy with a significant reliance on small to medium sized companies. The region is seeing an increasingly ageing population compared to the Scottish national average. The issues related to providing support to these people remains high, relative to other regions across Scotland.



The region has a critical transport infrastructure connected by a major trunk road network, major ferry and shipping lanes and significant reliance upon the rail network and the network of airports across the region. The loss of single lifeline routes, key ferry networks and key bridge access are a significant risk for the region, as often alternative access routes are not available. There is a very significant dependence upon the use of the UK search and rescue helicopter fleet and air ambulance aircraft across the region for the transport of casualties to and from key NHS facilities.

Due to the remote and rural nature of the region, challenges continue to exist around continuous communications and power supply. As a result of high winds and extended periods of poor weather, particularly in the winter months, the region's transportation infrastructure can be negatively impacted. Key NHS facilities are widely dispersed and service provision in the more remote and rural areas remains a challenge. The key hospital locations are Inverness, Dundee and Aberdeen.

There are aspects of the economy that are extremely strong and are experiencing considerable growth and expansion with the oil, gas, shipping and nuclear decommissioning industries providing significant employment opportunities. In addition, there is a growth in the renewable green energy industry and much of the region relies heavily on tourism, forestry and agriculture for its revenue generation, though often this is very seasonal employment.



Potential Risks

Pandemic Type Diseases

A pandemic occurs when a new disease emerges for which people have little or no immunity and for which there is no effective vaccine. This has been experienced as a result of the Coronavirus, COVID-19 Global Pandemic.

Due to lack of immunity, pandemic viruses are able to:

- Infect more humans over a large geographical area
- Spread rapidly and efficiently from person to person
- Cause clinical illness in a proportion of those infected in the long or short term

A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries, and usually affecting a large number of people. It happens when infection due to a bacterium or virus becomes capable of spreading widely and rapidly through a range of different vectors. A pandemic can cause severe illness and spread easily from one person to the next. A pandemic event can happen at any time and exist for a prolonged period of time. Impacts can be long lasting, and the public should remain aware of advice from Public Health Scotland and NHS Inform.



Illness, unable to go to work, loss of income, limited mobility, loss of life, high levels of anxiety



Missing school and work, passing illness on, loss of income, multiple members ill, loss of life



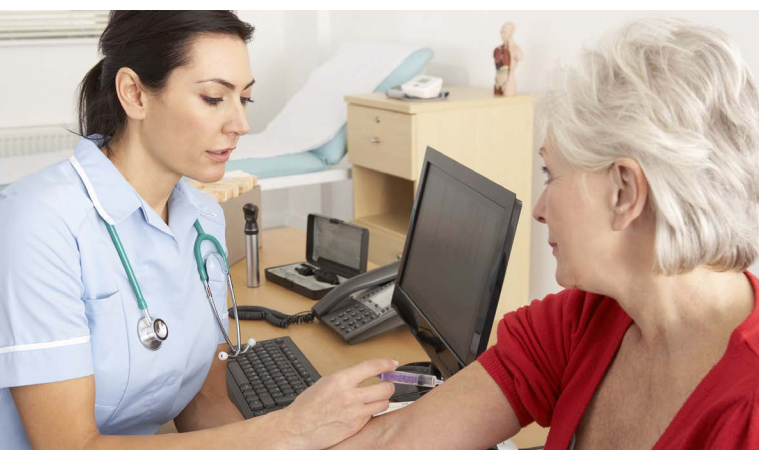
Workforce unable to get to work, loss of income, business networks affected



Increased demand on healthcare services, transport disruption and delays, economic losses, significant loss of life



Transport and delivery disruptions, increased demand on healthcare services, economic and business losses, tourism affected, loss of life



Possible Consequences

- Many people affected
- Public anxiety
- Higher than usual number of deaths
- Health and social care services stretched
- Vulnerable people at a higher risk
- High staff absence levels
- Public transportation affected
- Normal daily routines become affected
- Closure of businesses for a long period affecting the economy and job losses

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

In the event of an outbreak, working together to:

- Put surveillance arrangements in place to quickly identify and react to new diseases to avoid large outbreaks occurring
- Promote good infection control measures in health centres and hospitals
- Promote business continuity with local partners and businesses
- Support the NHS and social care services to cope with increased demand
- Assist in managing the local provision of appropriate and effective vaccinations
- Raise public awareness with the community and the media
- Manage a higher than normal level of fatalities
- Maintain and further develop multi-agency pandemic disease and flu plans
- Ensure lessons learned from previous incidents are incorporated into future planning.

What you can do:

- Follow Public Health Scotland and Government guidance
- Keep healthy – living a healthy lifestyle significantly increases your body's immune system and ability to cope with diseases and other illnesses such as flu and other illnesses
- Ensure you have someone who would be able to collect your medication, food and other important supplies for you – this will allow you to remain at home, potentially reducing further spread of the pandemic flu/diseases
- Have your own supplies of over-the-counter cold and flu medicines for you and your family
- Know and understand your children's school arrangements on such matters
- Look out for and follow advice from the NHS and other relevant agencies about the outbreak

For more information:

- Contact your local NHS board or visit: www.nhsinform.scot
- Ready Scotland: www.ready.scot
- Healthier Scotland - Take Life On: www.takelifeon.co.uk
- Public Health Scotland: www.publichealthscotland.scot/

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Severe Weather

This is relevant to the whole of the North of Scotland. Over the years there has been a range of weather events occurring across the region. These include heavy snow, rain, ice, sub-zero temperatures, high winds and prolonged periods of hot dry weather. These conditions can last over several days and sometimes weeks.

Severe Weather can:

- Come in a variety of forms; storm force winds, extreme temperatures, heavy rain ([see Flooding page 9](#)) and snow
- Last for prolonged periods and its impact can cause significant damage and disruption to people's lives and livelihoods
- Have a knock-on effect and create additional emergencies



Unable to go to work/home, loss of income, transport delays, disruption to daily routine, injury, loss of life



Structural damage to home, increased insurance premiums, missing school, no utilities, transport delays, injury, loss of life



Severe disruption to utilities i.e. burst water mains, interruption to gas etc. Business suspended or closed, damaged buildings, staff unable to reach work, supply/distribution network disruption, IT failure



Economic and business losses, damaged buildings, transport delays, loss of life



Utilities failure, economic losses, transport disruptions, tourism affected



Possible Consequences

Can be significant and long-lasting:

- Disruption to utilities (power, gas, water, tele-communications) in homes and businesses
- Danger to life from windblown objects (such as trees) and structural failure
- Vulnerable people exposed to health threatening temperatures
- Damage to property and infrastructure in urban and rural areas
- Limited or delayed transport availability
- Businesses and services may be forced to close or suspend operations
- Schools and public buildings closed
- Impact on rural areas; crops, livestock affected and isolated communities
- Natural landscape affected

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Maintaining, testing and exercising plans and procedures for an effective multi-agency response to severe weather events
- Taking account of any warnings or alerts issued by the Met Office and SEPA
- Distributing early notification of severe weather forecasts
- Providing support and guidance on business continuity to local partners and businesses
- Engaging with communities to develop community resilience
- Identifying and targeting assistance to the most vulnerable members of communities

What you can do:

- Listen to local weather forecasts and take heed of any warnings of extreme weather from the Met Office and SEPA
- Plan any journeys or activities with the weather in mind and consider delaying plans
- If you have to travel in extreme weather, ensure you have appropriate clothing and emergency supplies with you
- Think about how you would cope with a loss of utilities and what you would do if it happens
- Tune into local radio and community radio stations broadcasts i.e. Moray Firth Radio, BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, Northsound 1&2, Original106, Tay FM, Wave FM, Heartland FM and Pure Radio
- Communicate extreme weather updates to your family and friends
- Consider offering help to vulnerable neighbours in your community if safe to do so ensure you have adequate insurance
- Plan to reduce the impact on your business

For more information:

- MET Office Severe Weather Advice:
www.metoffice.gov.uk/guide/weather/severe-weather-advice
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency - Flooding
www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding
- Ready Scotland – Severe Weather:
www.ready.scot/response/severe-weather

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Flooding

There are many notable examples of flooding occurring in the broader region that have previously caused significant damage, anxiety and disruption across many communities. The types of flooding which are more likely to cause damage and disruption are coastal, river and flash flooding.

Coastal flooding can:

- Be the result of sea surges, high tides and/or gale force winds
- Affect the coastline and local defence barriers which may be overtopped or breached
- Generally, be expected
- River and Flash Flooding can:
- Be the result of heavy rain and melting snow or a combination of factors
- Affect any area, from those adjoining steep sided hills to flat plains
- Sometimes be rapid with little or no warning



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, injury, loss of income, inability to get home and/or to work



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, structural damage to home, no utilities



Loss of utilities, business may be in affected area, staffing levels affected, supply/distribution network affected, long term recovery



Businesses suspended or closed, economic losses, building damage, utilities supply disrupted, loss of life, long term recovery



Economic losses, utilities supply disrupted, tourism affected



Possible Consequences

- Risk to life, people and animals
- Flooding of homes and businesses
- Evacuation and/or isolation of residents
- Transport disruption with flooded roads and bridges
- Disruption of utilities
- Damage to property, agricultural land and general infrastructure
- Emergency accommodation for those evacuated
- Pollution and contamination of the local environment
- Long term restoration and recovery issues for those affected
- Potential unrecoverable damage to businesses

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Identifying and risk assessing areas that could be affected by flooding and those communities at risk in these areas
- Taking account of any warnings or alerts issued by SEPA
- Developing multi-agency plans and responses to flooding
- Testing and exercising flood related scenarios and recovery plans
- Providing information in advance, e.g. weather and flood warnings

What you can do:

- Find out if you live or work within a flood risk area from the SEPA website (below)
- Sign up to receive SEPA Floodline alerts (below) and sign up for Scottish Flood Forum newsletters on protection from flooding
- Where possible, move valuable or irreplaceable items to higher areas in your house during times of flood risk
- Ensure you have adequate insurance
- Identify a neighbour who may need help or who might be able to assist you if you evacuate your home
- Create flood plan for your home and business (below – Ready Scotland and Scottish Flood Forum)

For more information:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency - Flooding: www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding
- Ready Scotland – Flooding: www.ready.scot/respond/severe-weather/rain-and-flooding
- Scottish Flood Forum: www.scottishfloodforum.org

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

National Power Outage

This is relevant to the whole of the North of Scotland RRP region since a total national blackout will affect the entire National Electricity Transmission System and may take between 5 to 14 days to recover, impacting millions of consumers.

Total Power Outage can:

- Occur at any time, however, are more likely to happen during winter due to increased load on the transmission networks or repair work being hampered by severe weather conditions
- Last for a prolonged period (possibly several weeks) and cause significant damage and disruption to people's lives and livelihoods
- Have a knock-on effect, creating additional emergency situations in the wider community including lack of lighting, refrigeration, cooking facilities, water distribution, inability to pump fuel etc



Limited communications to speak with anyone. No heat or light for your home with a loss of other utilities such as water. Food supplies will perish quickly



Inability to communicate with (or get to) other family members and those who are elderly, ill, remote etc



Businesses unable to operate due to not being able to use lights or heat buildings. Inability to power processes or equipment



Severe disruption to community and the health, welfare and security of residents, employees etc.



Significant disruption to the of Scotland and its infrastructure, impacting on all aspects of Life



Possible Consequences

Depending on how long the disruptions are for:

- Loss of utilities (power, gas, water) in homes and businesses
- Danger to life from windswept objects, such as cables and poles
- Limited or delayed transport availability
- Disruption to the communications network, e.g. internet and telephone
- Civil unrest enhanced by lack of street lighting and CCTV
- Schools and public buildings closed
- Vulnerable people exposed to health threatening temperatures
- Businesses and services may be forced to close or suspend operations
- Impact on travel, no traffic lights, road information signs and fuel disruption
- Significant impact on health care, limited capacity in hospitals, no provision for significant backup systems

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Maintaining, testing and exercising plans and procedures for an effective multi-agency response to a National Power Outage.
- Ensuring robust Business Continuity Plans are in place to maintain service delivery
- Working with local radio stations to clarify existing back-up generator capability and promote enhanced resilience
- Promoting awareness locally of the National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F)

What you can do:

- Build an Emergency Preparedness Kit (Torch, Radio, First-Aid Kit, Food, Water etc)
- Charge mobile phones, torches, battery devices
- Keep vehicles fueled up
- Turn off unused devices and equipment
- Stock up on bottled water, pre-packed food etc
- For a localised failure, use alternative accommodation

For more information:

- Ready Scotland – Loss of Utilities
www.ready.scot/respond/loss-utilities

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Industrial Site Accidents

There are a wide variety of industrial sites throughout the broader region. Many of these manufacture, use, store and/or transport hazardous materials as part of their daily business.

These are governed by strict safety regulations; however, should an incident still occur, there are detailed emergency plans in place to deal with it with local responders working closely together and informing the community.

Examples of such incidents are:

- An explosion at an industry site e.g. complex, plant, pipeline or facility
- A release of harmful materials into the air
- A release of harmful substances into rivers and water courses



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, loss of income, inability to get home, injury, illness, loss of life



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, structural damages to home or business, no utilities, injury, illness, loss of life



No utilities, business may be in affected area, staffing levels affected, supply/distribution network affected



Businesses suspended or closed, economic losses, building damage, utility supply disrupted, loss of life, long term recovery



Economic losses, utility supply disrupted, tourism affected
Environmental damage sites of specific scientific interest affected



Possible Consequences

- Danger to life
- Public health issues and injuries
- People may be advised to stay indoors for safety purposes
- Possible evacuation of the affected area
- Potential for further incidents (e.g. fire or structural collapse)
- Damage to buildings and structures
- Disruption to oil, petrol or utility supplies
- Economic losses
- Adverse impact on farm and agricultural produce
- Damage to environment including waterways and wildlife

What the West of Scotland RRP is doing:

- Following guidance of regulators and working closely with site operators to produce, test and exercise multi-agency plans to provide emergency response assistance and recovery
- Working with multi-agency partners to respond effectively
- Identifying ways and means of communicating with the public before, during and after an incident
- Working with partners to identify lessons from previous incidents and learn from them

What you can do:

- Listen to and follow instructions issued by site operators, emergency services and others during an incident
- Know and understand your children's school arrangements on such matters
- Keep relevant phone numbers handy to stay in touch with people if you get separated

For more information:

- Ready Scotland:
www.ready.scot

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Transport Disruptions

Given the rural location of much of the North area and the limited number of arterial roads, railways, ferries and scheduled air routes; disruptions to the transport system can have a significant effect on the region. Travelling is a vital element of everyday lives whether within the urban or rural areas.

There are also many major bridges and causeways across the region, which are all equally significant in the transport infrastructure and particularly prone to closure during winter months. There is an extensive transport network across the broader region, incorporating road, rail, air and sea, all which play a crucial role in supporting people's everyday lives and the broader Scottish economy.

There are numerous events that could result in delays and disruption:

- Accidents
- Severe weather
- Technological failures, including signal or network issues, and cyber attacks
- Fuel supply disruption caused by strikes or blockades
- Flights being diverted or delayed e.g. due to snow, volcanic activity and fog
- Industrial action
- Structural damage to the transport infrastructure, such as bridges and tunnels



Unable to go to work/home, loss of income, transport delays, disruption to daily routine



Transport delays, missing school, missing holidays, loss of income



Business suspended or closed, damaged building, staff unable to reach work, supply/distribution network disruption, IT failure



Economic losses, building damage, transport delays, tourism affected



Economic losses, transport delays, tourism affected, communication failures



Possible Consequences

Depending on how long the disruptions are for:

- Inability to get to work or pursue normal routine
- Emergency vehicles unable to operate fully
- Limited transportation available or delayed transportation options
- Waterways or spaces close to accident could be negatively impacted
- Businesses and services may be forced to close or suspend operations
- May affect the health of vulnerable persons unable to travel to medical appointments

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Developing emergency and longer term strategies to deal with consequences
- Working with major transport providers to have detailed plans in place
- Providing support and guidance on business continuity to local partners and businesses
- Providing information to the public during disruptions
- Working with partners to identify lessons from previous incidents and learn from them

What you can do:

- Listen to local news sources and check official social media accounts for updates on any disruptions that have occurred in your area
- Follow road diversions or directions given by the road authorities
- Consider planning alternative routes to destinations
- Communicate transport updates to your family and friends

For more information:

- Traffic Scotland:
www.trafficscotland.org
- Traveline Scotland:
www.travelinescotland.com
- Met Office Severe Weather Advice:
www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Pollution and Contamination

The biggest risk of environmental pollution within the region is from chemical or harmful substances being released into the environment.

Over 10,000 vessels of varying size, capacity and cargo visit the North of Scotland harbours each year. Combined with a heavy presence of onshore and offshore petrochemical installations and industrial premises, there is a potential risk of environmental pollution occurring.

Likewise, hazardous substances are used extensively across the North of Scotland across a wide range of business and industry applications.

There are strict safety requirements by those that use, transport and house these substances and emergency services are able to quickly identify and respond to a wide range of releases in the event of it occurring.

Examples of possible hazardous substance releases could be:

- transport accidents on roads/rail releasing such substances and marine pollution
- industrial leakage or explosion
- contamination at places of work e.g. legionella



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, illness, loss of income, restrictions of some foods if contaminated, loss of water supply, high levels of anxiety



Advised to stay indoors/possible evacuation to a safer area, illness, restrictions of some foods if contaminated, loss of water supply, high levels of anxiety



Business may be in affected area, supply/distribution network affected, long term recovery



Businesses suspended or closed, economic losses, long term recovery, restriction on some food if contaminated, loss of water supply, anxiety



Economic losses, transportation routes and utilities affected, tourism affected, contaminated areas within the region



Possible Consequences

- Pollution and contamination of the local environment and waterways
- Health issues for people and animals
- Disruption to utilities
- People may be asked to remain indoors, or in extreme circumstances, may even be displaced
- Potential long-term damage to infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, business and coastlines
- Food chain contamination
- Prolonged restoration and recovery issues for homes, businesses and the environment
- Potential unrecoverable damage to businesses
- Public anxiety

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Working closely with site operators and the emergency services to test and exercise pollution related scenarios and recovery plans
- Ensuring community communication plans and procedures are ready for implementation if an incident were to occur
- Promoting high standards of pollution/contamination safety with the aim to avoid instances occurring in the first place
- Working with partners to identify lessons from previous incident and learn from them

What you can do:

- Follow advice of the public health authorities and keep up to date with media announcements
- Know and understand your children's school arrangement on such matters
- Contact your local authority environmental health teams for more information
- Identify a neighbour who may need assistance or who might be able to assist you if you are evacuated
- Consider what you can safely do to assist during any clean-up operations

For more information:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
www.sepa.org.uk

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Animal and Plant Health

This risk is relevant to the whole of the North of Scotland RRP Region as over the previous years there has been a number of animal health and plant diseases events occurring that have included, Avian Flu, Foot and Mouth Disease, Bovine Tuberculosis and Blue Tongue Virus.

Animal and plant diseases can:

- Manifest themselves in a number of forms
- Spreads quickly either by airborne virus or by a transmitter/carrier
- Place a risk to human health through physical contact (Zoonotic Diseases)
- Last for prolonged periods where the impact can cause significant damage to rural economies and affect people's livelihoods



Unable to work in farms, slaughterhouses, food processing plants, loss of income, disruption to normal routines, Injuries



Closure of national and country parks and foot paths, Restrictions on human movements and public access, loss of income for area, transport rerouted causing delays



Large loss of finance to the regional economies of the North RRP area, business losses, through closure of animal processing plants, Loss of tourist economy, job losses



Large fire pits, rendering sites or licensed landfill sites requiring to be implemented, Damage to the land through contamination, Pollution of rivers etc through animal carcasses



Animal incinerations, Health care for those affected by pathogens, Spread of disease from animal to animal and animal to human Possible disease through dead animal carcasses disease through dead animal carcasses



Possible Consequences

Can be significant and long-lasting and can include:

- Movement controls implemented
- Restriction zones implemented – Closure of parks, countryside walkways
- Multiple outbreaks of animal disease in the UK
- Mass cull of animals
- Ban on animal and plant exports
- Public health affected – e.g Swine flu
- Economies affected – Tourism
- Significant compensation costs
- Significant disease control costs

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Maintaining, testing and exercising of plans and procedures for an effective multi agency response to animal and plant disease events
- Communicating with a number of agencies through bulletins
- Sharing of resources and expertise with other RRP partners
- Partnership training of personnel on equipment and procedures
- Consortiums established to share, operate and maintain equipment
- Joined up approaches with Government agencies and other operational partners such as councils
- Councils utilise animal health and welfare officers with established protocols in place for communication of notifiable diseases
- APHA has movement regimes in place with controls being imposed for premises affected
- APHA and local councils have continuous ongoing monitoring and intelligence operating with a notifying and communication system in place

What you can do:

- Plan ahead to reduce impact on your business
- Report any suspected signs of animal disease to the appropriate authority
- Report any suspected illegal animal movements or activities
- Report any suspected illegally imported animals or plants
- Listen to news bulletins and take heed of any warnings for affected areas where animal or plant disease is prevalent
- Follow all instructions from the various agencies – i.e. disinfecting vehicle wheels etc.
- Plan your journey's in the event of restricted zones being imposed
- Consider alternative countryside walks if areas are restricted
- Observe any police warnings on social media or posters on animal or plant diseases
- Consider alternative supply chains for meat or plant products

For more information:

- www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency
- www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural
- www.gov.scot/Topics/marine
- beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-exotic-diseases-animals-contingency-framework-plan/
- www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-regional-resilience-partnerships-framework-exotic-notifiable-animal-diseases-contingency-plans-august-2022/
- www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare
- www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Potential Risks

Significant Cyber Attack affecting a public sector organisation

Cyber incidents and attacks can happen at any time and to any organisation and these can range from minor impacts (e.g. website defacement or overloading) to significant impacts (e.g. ransomware attacks). Highly sophisticated human operated ransomware attacks are happening with increasing regularity and can have a catastrophic impact on an organisation.

For significant incidents, viruses or malware could:

- Spread quickly through an organisations' networks to all connected IT devices, effectively rendering these unusable for a significant period of time.
- Destroy or encrypt key data necessary for an organisation to operate, with encrypted data also held for ransom.
- Steal data which is often then used to extort money from the victim under threat of release on the internet.
- Result in the victim being digitally isolated from delivery partners for an extended period while remediation action is undertaken.
- See a return to normality take a very long time, often measured in weeks and months rather than days.



Loss of access to public services, loss of income or benefits. Unable to work. Disruption to daily routine.



Possible inability to communicate with family. Major disruptions to accessing public services, banking, businesses.



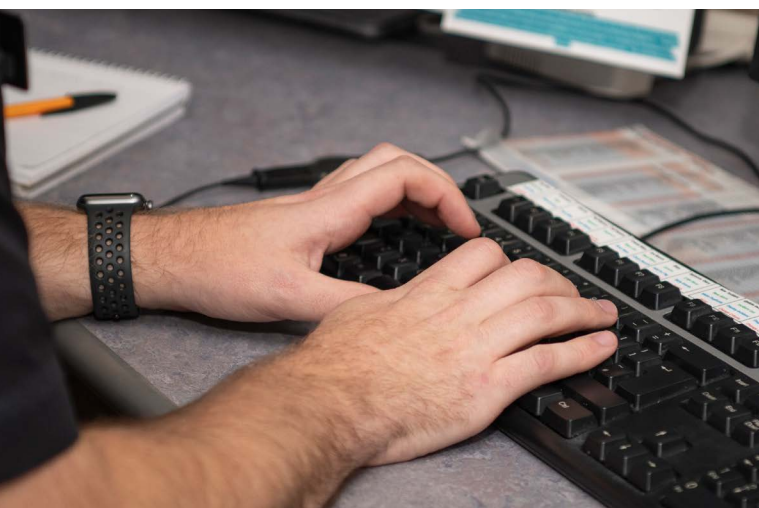
Major disruption to business and unable to operate. Economic losses. Long term recovery. Effect on utilities.



Business suspended or closed, economic losses. Long term recovery. Anxiety. Disruption to daily life.



Communications failures. Major economic losses.



Possible Consequences

Depending on how long the disruptions are for:

- Single or multiple public sector organisations unable to provide essential services
- Inability to communicate internally electronically within affected organisations.
- Disruption to communications with affected organisations
- Lack of public confidence in digital provision of public services

What the North of Scotland RRP members are doing:

- Working together with Scottish Government Public Sector Cyber Resilience Unit to provide information on best practice in cyber security and raise public awareness of the threat of cyber-attacks.
- Raising awareness of cyber security with resilience partners and improving incident reporting and response, including sharing lessons learned.
- Promoting public messaging and communications around improving Cyber Resilience at work and at home.
- Supporting the Scottish Government Cyber Resilience Unit to promote, through LRPs, the security-enhancing products and support available to partners to protect themselves from cyber-attack.
- Promoting training and awareness raising using online resources from the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) exercise in a box, the Scottish Government Cyber Resilience Incident Management guidance and the Scottish Government Cyber Incident Ransomware Playbook

What you can do:

- Stay up to date with the latest threats and scams
- Improve your online security
- Ensure you have relevant contact phone numbers for you key service providers.
- Review your incident response plan/ arrangements and test/exercise them against common attack scenarios
- Review backup processes to ensure that backups are offline and/or immutable and can be used to recover your systems quickly and efficiently.

For more information:

- Latest CyberScotland Bulletins: www.CyberScotland.com
- Improve your online security: www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware
- Scottish Government Cyber Resilience - Cyber Incident Response Toolkit: www.gov.scot/publications/cyber-resilience-incident-management/
- The National Cyber Security Centre: www.ncsc.gov.uk
- NCSC Exercise in a Box: www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/exercise-in-a-box
- Cyber resilience: incident management (Capability Toolkit) and Playbooks: www.gov.scot/publications/cyber-resilience-incident-management/

More preparedness information can be found on [page 23](#).

Preparedness

There are simple and effective actions that can be taken to build better personal, business and community resilience for emergencies or disruptive events.

You can significantly reduce the risk by being informed and prepared.

Being aware of the risks in your local community will help you prepare for the consequences they may bring. By planning and preparing now, you can limit the impact an emergency could have on you, your family or your business. There are many types of emergency situations that could disrupt your daily life. This could include not being able to travel or having difficulty contacting family members. Some initial steps you can take:

- Identify the risks that might affect you, your home or businesses in your local area
- Research/investigate specific actions you can take to reduce the impact of those risks in areas of your life
- Identify somewhere your family can meet if you are evacuated or cannot return to your home
- Check your insurance cover in detail and keep a copy of the policy in a safe place
- Sign up to official social media feeds and apps such as those on [page 25](#).
- Take time to help your elderly or vulnerable neighbours' where possible
- Consider what you would do with your pets

In an emergency, there are many ways in which information is communicated to the public by the appropriate authorities. This can be via traditional sources like TV and radio but also by social media such as X (formerly Twitter) feeds, agency website updates and Facebook notifications.

The UK Government has an Emergency Alerts service. This will send an alert to your phone or tablet should there be danger nearby. There is no need to register for these alerts as they will be sent automatically through mobile phone masts close to the incident. You can find out more, here: www.gov.uk/alerts

Depending on the nature of the emergency, it is possible that electricity or telecommunication infrastructure may be affected.

It is good to know your local radio stations, as they will be broadcasting important information. You may wish to write down your local radio frequencies at the back of this document. Scotland's national broadcast radio station is:

- BBC Radio Scotland: tune in between 92-95FM and 810 MW

Information to help you during wide reaching, prolonged emergencies will be broadcast on:

- BBC Radio 2 88-91FM
- BBC Radio 4 92-95FM

For more information, plan templates and checklists:

- Ready Scotland:
www.ready.scot



Find Out More

In an emergency, always dial 999. For general police enquiries and non-emergency matters, dial 101.

Scottish Government

- Ready Scotland –
Preparing for Emergencies:
www.readyscotland.org

Business Resilience

- Ready Scotland – My Business
www.readyscotland.org/my-business

Weather

- Met Office
www.metoffice.gov.uk

Community Resilience

- Ready Scotland – Community
www.ready.scot/get-involved/community-groups

Police

- Police Scotland
www.scotland.police.uk

Fire & Rescue

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
www.firescotland.gov.uk

Environment

- Scottish Environment
Protection Agency (SEPA)
www.sepa.org.uk

Flooding

- Floodline Scotland
www.floodlinescotland.org.uk

Utilities – Electricity

- Scottish Power Energy Networks
www.spenenergynetworks.co.uk
- Scottish and Southern
Energy Power Distribution
www.ssen.co.uk

Utilities – Gas

- Scottish Gas Networks
www.sgn.co.uk

Utilities – Water

- Scottish Water
www.scottishwater.co.uk

Telecommunications

- British Telecom
www.bt.com

Transportation

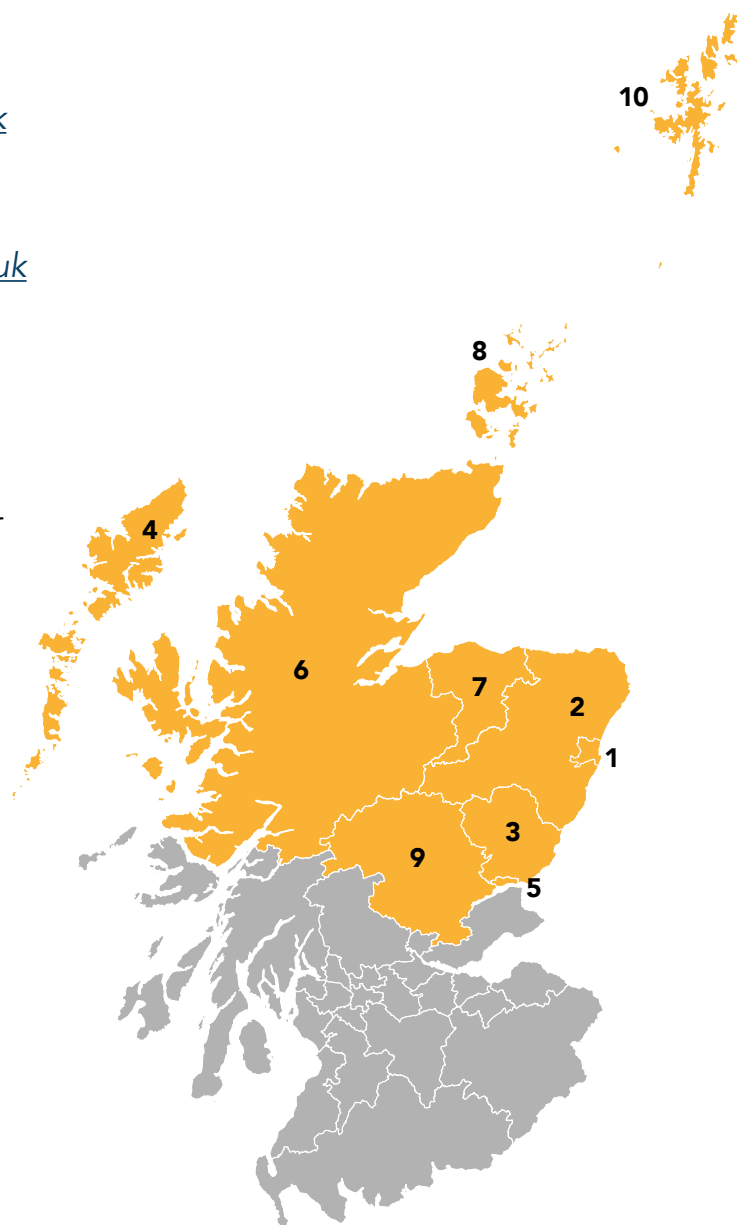
- Traffic Scotland
trafficscotland.org
- Travel Line Scotland
www.travelinescotland.com

Voluntary Sector

- Ready Scotland – Playing Your Part
www.ready.scot/get-involved/playing-your-part
- British Red Cross
www.redcross.org.uk

Local Authorities

1. Aberdeen City Council
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk
2. Aberdeenshire Council
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk
3. Angus Council
www.angus.gov.uk
4. Comhairle Eilean nan Siar
www.cne-siar.gov.uk
5. Dundee City Council
www.dundeeecity.gov.uk
6. Highland Council
www.highland.gov.uk
7. Moray Council
www.moray.gov.uk
8. Orkney Islands Council
www.orkney.gov.uk
9. Perth and Kinross Council
www.pkc.gov.uk
10. Shetland Islands Council
www.shetland.gov.uk



Contributors

- Local Authorities in North of Scotland RRP
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS Health Boards in the North of Scotland RRP
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- HM Coastguard (MCA)
- Animal & Plant Health (APHA)
- Met Office
- Transport Scotland
- Scottish Water
- Scottish Government

Notes

North of Scotland
RRP
Regional Resilience Partnership

North Community Risk Register 2024 – Version 1

The most up-to-date version of this document can be found at

www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/community-risk-register.aspx