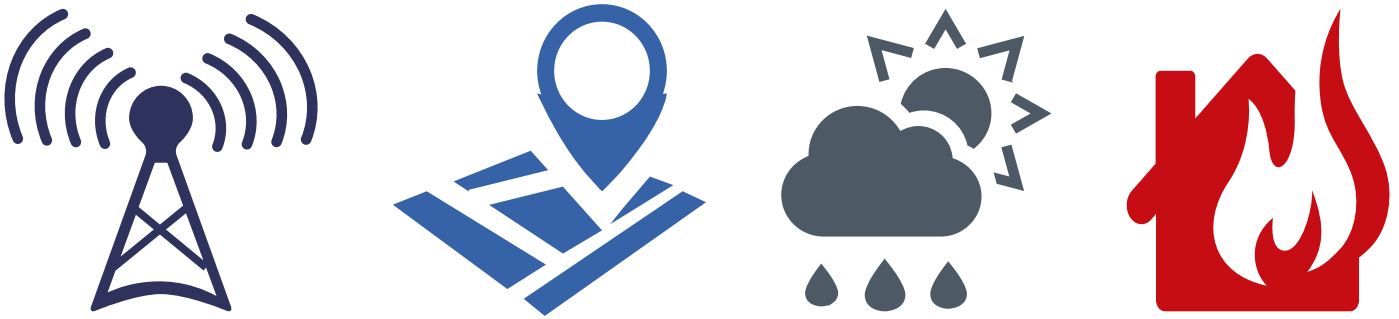
YOUR **LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM**

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Preparing the community of West Mercia for emergencies

West Mercia Local Resilience Forum - Community Risk Register (V5)



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Foreword



Richard Cooper
Chief Constable - West Mercia Police

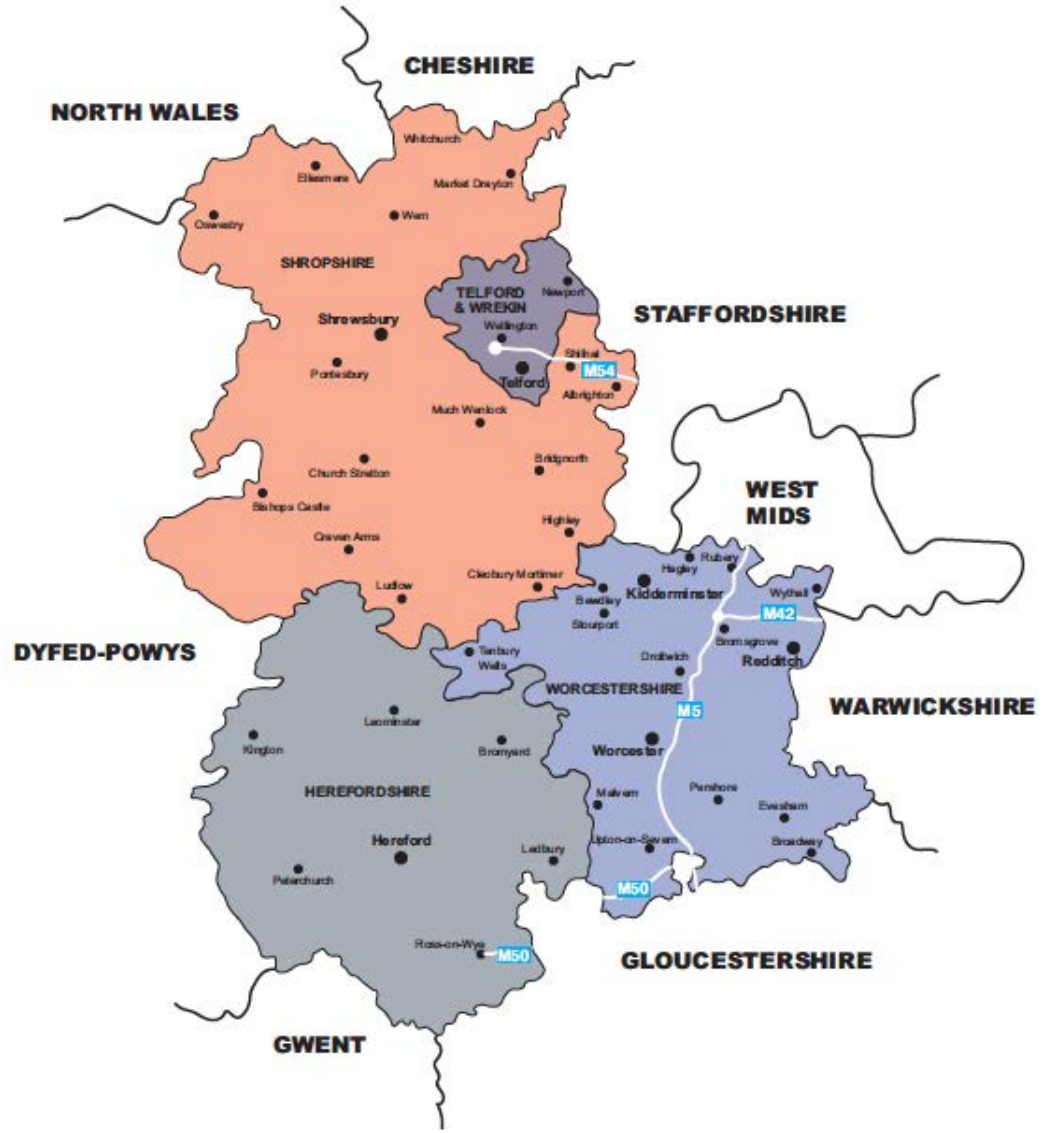
Chair of Chief Officers Group West Mercia Local Resilience Forum

The West Mercia Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a partnership made up of all the organisations needed to prepare for and respond to any major emergency in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. It includes the emergency services, local authorities, health agencies and the Environment Agency, along with voluntary and community organisations, utility companies and Central Government.

As is the case across the globe, West Mercia and the UK are feeling the effects of changes to our environment and climate, and we still face some risks that could cause serious disruption. The aim of the West Mercia LRF is:

- To ensure that there is an appropriate level of preparedness to enable an effective multi-agency response to emergency incidents, which have a significant impact on the communities of West Mercia.
- To get partners working together to ensure that the best possible preparations and plans are in place for emergencies. These are regularly tested so that agencies can respond effectively to any threat. This document, the West Mercia Community Risk Register, will signpost you to sources of up-to-date information to become more prepared and resilient in your homes, communities and businesses. It also aims to localise some of the items raised in the National Risk Register which can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2025
- A range of the most likely risks are mentioned in this document, it does not mean that they will occur locally. It simply means we know there is a possibility of them happening and that organisations have taken steps to ensure preparedness and reduce the impact on our communities.

The West Mercia Profile



To understand why some risks are more significant in West Mercia, it's helpful to look at the profile of the area, including social, economic and geographical factors. These factors also influence how we can prepare for and manage emergencies locally.

The West Mercia LRF area consists of four upper tier and six lower tier local authorities within one LRF area – it's a unique aspect of our LRF.

Key facts - West Mercia:

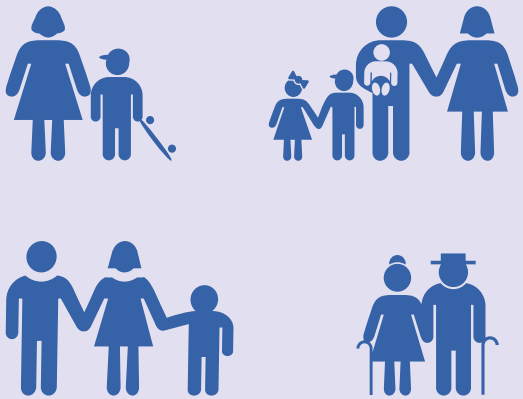
- 2,486 square miles - total land mass
- is the fourth largest police force in England and Wales
- has a total population of 1.19 million
- has a higher than national average population of 65+ year olds
- local economy has strong agricultural base and includes service sector, technology and tourism

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West Mercia risks

The risks within West Mercia have been split into categories or 'families', and are based upon the National Risk Register which aims to explain the types of emergencies that might occur, what the Government and partners are doing to mitigate them, and how you as individuals, families or small businesses can help to protect yourself.





This document will focus on the following seven risk categories:

- Terrorism.
- Cyber and fraud.
- Serious and organised crime, such as people trafficking.
- Accidents and system failures, such as power failure or an interruption to water supplies.
- Natural and environmental hazards, such as flooding or heatwaves.
- Human and animal disease, such a flu pandemics or foot & mouth.
- Societal risks, such as riots.

Information about the National Risk Register can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2025



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Community and personal resilience

How to prepare yourself for emergencies

These resources will help you quickly prepare for the hazards and threats that may affect you.

Make sure you:

- Have suitable insurance, the Association of British Insurers website https://www.abi.org.uk/ has useful information on home insurance and flooding insurance, but don't forget car insurance too.
- Fit and maintain smoke alarms.
- Prepare a first aid kit.
- Sign up to Community Messaging and information services.



Think about:

- A safe meeting place with family members should an emergency occur whilst you are away from home, i.e. whilst at work, school or college.
- Where you would go and stay - and how you would get there - if an emergency meant that you couldn't stay at home; how your family will stay in contact in the event of an emergency.
- Whether elderly or vulnerable family, friends or neighbours may need your help.
- Putting together a grab bag of things to take in an emergency, such as medication, ID, mobile phone and charger, glasses, keys, wallet and cash.

Find out:

- Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies in your home or business.
- The emergency procedures for your children at school and at your workplace.

On 22 May 2024, the Deputy Prime Minister launched a new Government resilience website: www.gov.uk/prepare. This aims to increase public preparedness for emergencies by providing simple and effective advice to households.

The resilience website hosts the newly-developed Volunteering Directory. The Directory signposts the public to resilience-related volunteering opportunities, and provides information about how people can get involved to support their communities before, during and after an emergency or crisis.

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring can make a real difference. There are some simple steps you can take to stay safe and healthy at this time of year. These pages provide up-to-date, expert seasonal advice from carefully selected organisations to help you prepare for and respond to the weather, to stay safe and protect yourself, your homes and businesses:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready

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National emergency alerts

Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby. In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe. Follow this link to find out more:

https://www.gov.uk/alerts

Go In, Stay In, Tune In

Major emergencies can be caused by anything from flooding and transport accidents to chemical spills and terrorism. In nearly every case you can help by following these three simple steps.



Go in

Go indoors, close doors and windows and shut down ventilation systems if it is safe to do so. Unless there is an obvious risk to the property this will give you good short-term protection against the vast majority of hazards.

Stay in

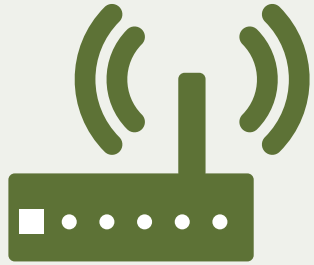
Stay indoors until you know more about the situation and the appropriate action you need to take to protect yourself further. The action you should take will be different depending on the nature of an incident so you could put yourself at more risk by not waiting for further instructions.

Tune in

Tune into local radio, television and social media channels to find out more about what is happening. If there is a major emergency radio and TV companies will interrupt programming to give the public safety advice and information about the incident.

BBC Hereford and Worcester broadcasts on 104 - 104.6 in Worcestershire and 94.7 FM in Herefordshire; as well as 738 and 1584 AM and DAB digital.

BBC Radio Shropshire (including Telford & Wrekin) broadcasts on 96 FM countywide, 95 FM in Ludlow, 104.1 FM from Clun, or 90 FM in Church Stretton.



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@bbchw / @BBCShropshire

Fire prevention and safety

The emergency services are trained to cope with a wide range of emergency situations, but there is a lot that you can do to help them and yourself:

- Fit one smoke alarm per floor of your home and check it weekly (introduce Test it Tuesday!).
- Make an action plan so that everyone in your household knows how to escape in the event of a fire.
- Take care when cooking with hot oil - use a temperature-controlled deep fat fryer.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully.





- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Have your chimney swept regularly.
- Take extra care in the kitchen - cooking accidents account for 59% of fires in the home.
- Take care when you're tired or when you've been drinking - half of all deaths in domestic fires happen between 10pm and 8am.

If you are unlucky enough to have a fire at home, don't tackle the fire yourself, however small it is.

If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999

For more safety and advice information from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service visit:

https://www.hwfire.org.uk/safety-and-advice/

For home and business fire safety advice from Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service visit:

https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/



West Midlands Ambulance Service

If you think your situation is an EMERGENCY then call 999.

If you need help now, but it's not an emergency, then call 111 or go to:

https://111.nhs.uk

NHS 111 is a free number from landlines and mobiles and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When you call 111, you will be asked a series of questions from a trained health adviser or clinician and, following a short assessment, NHS 111 will direct you to the right service, at the right time and as close to your home as possible.



First aid and self help

It's important to have a well-stocked first aid kit in your home and car so you can deal with minor accidents and injuries.

Your first aid kit should be locked and kept in a cool, dry place out of the reach of children.



For details on what your first aid kit should contain visit:

https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/accidents-first-aid-and-treatments/what-should-i-keep-in-my-first-aid-kit/

Don't forget - medicines should be checked regularly to make sure they're within their use-by dates.

It may also be useful to keep a basic first aid manual or instruction booklet with your first aid kit. Further advice can be sought from 111 or here:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/first-aid/

These NHS web pages provide information and guidance about common first aid situations, but they aren't a replacement for taking a first aid training course.

Basic first aid courses are run regularly in most areas around the UK. In this area, St John Ambulance and British Red Cross both provide a selection of first aid courses, as well as the courses from independent first aid training companies.



Terrorism

The threat from terrorism in the UK is real, but with a little knowledge and preparation you can increase your safety and help protect both yourself and others in the event of a terrorist attack. To find out more visit ProtectUK by using the QR code below.

To report an imminent threat call 999. To report any suspicious behaviour or activity ring the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321



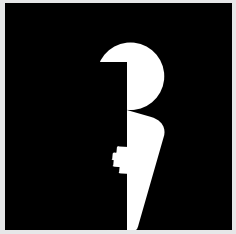
In the rare event of an attack there are three key steps for keeping safe:

Run



If you know where the danger is then move quickly away. This is a far better option than to surrender or trying to negotiate.

Hide



If you can't move to safety then hide. It's better to hide than to confront an attacker. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can.

Tell



Finally, and only when it is safe to do so ... tell the police by calling 999.

The following website provides details of official helplines and support services available to victims, survivors, witnesses, and family members of those affected by terrorist attacks:

https://victimsofterrorism.campaign.gov.uk/

An online resource is now available called ProtectUK. This provides advice and guidance on countering the terrorist threat and includes how to spot suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident. Visit:

http://www.protectuk.police.uk



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@TerrorismPolice

Cyber and fraud

Cyber criminals may try to steal data or money, draw attention to a cause or otherwise disrupt government, society and individuals by preventing things from working.

Smartphones, computers and the internet are now such a fundamental part of modern life, that it's difficult to imagine how we'd function without them. From online banking and shopping, to email and social media, it's more important than ever to take steps that can prevent cyber criminals getting hold of our accounts, data, and devices.



How to report fraud and cybercrime

Report Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime where you should report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cybercrime. Visit or call 0300 123 2040 or visit:

www.reportfraud.police.uk

You can also register to receive free, direct, verified, accurate information about scams and fraud in your area at:

www.reportfraudalert.co.uk

The National Cyber Security Centre provides practical guidance for individuals and families, self-employed and sole traders, small and medium sized organisations, large organisations, public sector and cyber security professionals:

www.ncsc.gov.uk









Be secure

Multi-Factor Authentication - Using secondary methods to authenticate log in sessions is far more secure than passwords alone.

Passwords - Implement the NCSC's "ThreeRandomWords" guidance, and use separate passwords for work and personal. Use a unique password for Office 365 or core organisation accounts.

Schedule password changes over regular intervals.

Staff training and awareness - support and encourage staff to understand the risk and threat to themselves and in turn the organisation. WMROCU provide this for free! Encourage / enable reporting to known or suspected security risks or incidents.

Prohibit any shared access or logins of accounts.

Protect yourself from fraud and cybercrime

1. Do not give any personal information (name, address, bank details, and email or phone number) to organisations or people before verifying their credentials.

2. Make sure your computer has up to date anti-virus software and a firewall installed.

3. Many frauds start with a phishing email (Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication). Remember that banks and financial institutions will not send you an email asking you to click on a link and confirm your bank details. Do not trust such emails, even if they look genuine.

4. Destroy receipts with your card details on, and post with your name and address on. Identity fraudsters don't need much information in order to be able to clone your identity.

For more information and advice visit:

www.reportfraud.police.uk and

https://www.getsafeonline.org/

For advice and guidance on passwords, follow this link to the National Cyber Security Centre's #thinkrandom campaign for password security:

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/blog-post/three-random-words-or-thinkrandom-0



Serious and organised crime

Organised crime is serious crime coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Organised crime groups are responsible for the trafficking of drugs, people and firearms, organised illegal immigration, large-scale and high-volume fraud and other financial crimes and counterfeit goods.



Op Target

Operation Target is our wide-reaching campaign to identify and target serious and organised crime. It sees us joining together with our neighbouring forces - West Midlands, Staffordshire and Warwickshire - to target and fight serious and organised crime throughout the region.

Our combined strategy and operation will continue to be underpinned by the four Ps:

- **Pursue –** prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality.
- **Prevent –** preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality.
- **Protect –** increasing protection against organised crime.
- **Prepare –** reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place.

OPERATION TARGET
WEST MERCIA POLICE

Crime prevention advice

Nobody thinks they'll be a victim of crime until, of course, it happens. But if you're clued in to the criminals' tricks and tactics you can stay one step ahead. Browse the West Mercia Police website for first-hand knowledge, industry best practices and practical crime prevention advice from officers and specialist teams all across the police:

https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/

https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/



Accidents and systems failures

This section covers industrial accidents, releases of hazardous materials as well as utility and infrastructure failures/ outages.

COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard) Regulations

Unless you are advised otherwise, the national Go In, Stay In, Tune In message applies.

COMAH regulations exist to reduce the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances. They apply to any site storing or handling large quantities of industrial chemicals. Operators must take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and to limit their consequences for people and the environment.



The regulations operate on two levels depending on the type and quantify of chemicals handled:

Lower Tier AND Upper Tier

Lower tier sites are required to document a Major Accident Prevention Policy. A top tier COMAH site is required to produce a full safety report which proves that all necessary measures have been taken to reduce risks posed by the site.

There are only two top tier sites within West Mercia:

1. W H Bowker Ltd (chemical installations - storage/warehousing) based in Droitwich:

   https://www.bowkertransport.co.uk/distribution-centres/droitwich

2. Roxel (UK Rocket Motors) Ltd (chemical manufacture/production/disposal) based in Kidderminster:

   www.roxelgroup.com/en/corporate#carte

West Mercia LRF partner organisations work closely with the site operators to ensure plans are up to date and regularly tested.

Electricity power failure

During a power cut, call 105 … it's free and will put you through to a local network operator who can give you help and advice. To find out more visit:

https://www.powercut105.com/

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A POWER CUT?

- Switch off all electrical appliances, ready for when the power comes back on.
- Leave a light on so you know when the power outage has been resolved.
- Check to see if your neighbours are okay.
- Wrap up warm.
- Report the power cut, if you are unsure who your operator is, call 105.

How can I prepare for a power cut?

- Keep a torch handy - it's much safer than using candles.
- Get a battery-powered or wind-up radio (useful for keeping up to date with relevant local news).
- Keep warm - keep a blanket and warm clothing handy and fill a vacuum flask or hot water bottle.
- Stock your cupboard with food and drink that doesn't require electricity to prepare it.
- Keep your mobile phone and laptop fully charged.
- Check network operators website or social media channels for updates.

For more information visit https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/power-cut-information/power-cut-advice

Water

Top tips on protecting your home or workplace from burst water pipes:

Wrap-up your pipes - pipes can be exposed to freezing temperatures if they're in a part of your home that isn't heated. Water companies recommend that any water pipes which are exposed to cold temperatures (such as those in the loft or in outside buildings like garages and out-houses, or your outside tap) should be protected with lagging. This helps to keep your pipes cosy and warm, reducing the risk of them freezing and bursting.

Find your stop tap - if there's a burst pipe at home, the fastest way to stop the flow is to turn your stop tap off. Normally they're under the kitchen sink or in the downstairs toilet - but may also be in a utility room or garage.

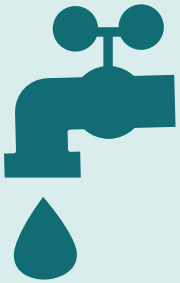
If your home has a water storage tank - the sort found in the loft or airing cupboard - it may have an additional stop tap or valve near to the tank itself. This will shut off the water supply to your hot water system. Once your stop tap has been located, it's worth checking it works, as sometimes they can seize up if not used often.

For more information, useful videos and advice visit:

https://www.stwater.co.uk/

https://www.dwrcymru.com/

https://www.south-staffs-water.co.uk/



Support for customers with additional needs

Water companies want to make sure customers get all the support they need. To help them do this they have a Priority Services Register. This is a list of customers who have additional needs that suppliers should be aware of if there's a supply interruption. This helps to prioritise care and support.

For details of how to register, visit https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/help



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Water Supply Interruption

If you experience a water supply interruption, you can contact your water company to inform them. You can do this via the contact details available on their website.

How to be prepared for a water supply interruption:

- Consider storing bottled water in your home as a contingency.
- Use a water butt to store rain water. You can use grey water to flush toilets.
- Keep up to date with messages and communications from your water company during an incident.

Water Companies have specific sections on their websites for winter preparation and what to do in an incident. Register for support:

https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/winter-ready

https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/help-advice/help-and-support-during-an-incident

Gas

To report a smell of gas or carbon monoxide emergency, or if a gas pipeline is struck (even if no gas leak has occurred) call 0800 111 999* - 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency:

- Do not smoke or light matches.
- Do not turn electrical switches on or off.
- Open doors and windows.
- Turn off the meter at the control handle unless the meter is in the cellar.
- Call the National Gas Emergency number (0800 111 999*).

General safety advice

Get your gas appliances checked annually by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

Always check IDs before allowing anyone into your home.

More information can be found at:

https://cadentgas.com/gas-safety-advice

*All calls are recorded and may be monitored.

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If your home is flooded

This is what we would advise if a home were flooded.

https://cadentgas.com/stay-safe-warm-and-connected-this-winter/flood-advice

If you have been advised to evacuate your property by an authorised agency, then please turn off your gas at the emergency control handle. This is normally located next to your meter.

Please do not attempt to do this if your meter is under water or in a cellar.

We do recommend that you ensure your gas appliances are switched off before evacuating your property.



Reservoirs and dams

Across West Mercia there are numerous dams and reservoirs of varying size and construction. The potential flood risk posed by these sites in the unlikely event they fail depends on the geography of the local area. The flood warning information service enables you to enter the details of your property and identify whether you are at risk from rivers, surface water or from dams and reservoirs, for more information visit:

https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

Natural and environmental hazards

Severe weather

The UK is prone to weather extremes, including heatwaves, cold weather and snow, strong winds, extreme rainfall and flooding.

What you need to do

- Listen to weather forecasts and heed any warnings of extreme weather.
- Plan any journeys or activities with the weather in mind.
- Only travel if essential - if you have to travel in severe weather check and prepare your vehicle first. Make sure you have adequate clothing and emergency supplies (including bottled water) in your vehicle.

Check for weather warnings via the Met Office helpline 0370 900 0100 or at:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings

Sign up to receive Met Office alerts directly by email or by mobile app.

Flooding

With its vast array of watercourses, West Mercia has had more than its fair share of flooding incidents. Flooding at its most serious can affect many different aspects of our daily lives.

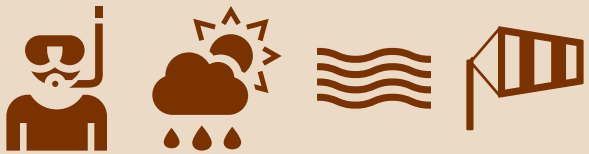
Surface water flooding is particularly difficult to forecast and can happen at very short notice.

Never walk or drive through flood water, there may be underwater hazards and it may be deeper than it appears.

You can check your flood risk, sign up for free flood warnings and keep up to date with the latest situation at:

www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk

Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or follow @EnvAgency on Twitter for the latest flood update.



To find out if your property is at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, surface water or from dams and reservoirs visit:

https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk or

https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/

West Mercia Search & Rescue offer a free online water-safety course which is suitable for all ages, and contains loads of information on dangers from water, and how to rescue someone who's in trouble:

https://westmerciasar.org.uk/homeanddry/

Flood Re is a way to help people who live in flood risk areas get affordable home insurance:

https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/flood-re/

Help and advice also available from the National Flood Forum:

https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/

Ironbridge Gorge

One of the risks in West Mercia relates to land instability in the Ironbridge Gorge.

Landslips in the Gorge area are nothing new and have been happening for hundreds of years. The underground geological structure of the Ironbridge Gorge and the effects of ongoing erosion and of past mining in the area have caused gradual land slippage for many years. If you would like to learn more about the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and understand and prepare for issues linked to land instability in the Gorge visit:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/environment/land-stability-flooding-and-drainage/land-instability-in-ironbridge-gorge/





Heatwave

Most of us welcome hot weather, but when it's too hot for too long, there are health risks. The main risks posed by a heatwave are:

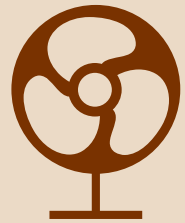
- Not having enough water (dehydration).
- Overheating, which can make symptoms worse for people who already have problems with their heart or breathing.
- Heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Heatwaves can be dangerous, especially



for the very young, very old or those with certain medical conditions:

- Stay out of the heat - especially between 11am and 3pm when the sun reaches its peak.
- Cool yourself down with plenty of cold drinks - avoid alcohol and hot drinks.



- Keep curtains and blinds closed during the day to keep rooms cool.
- Consult your GP if you feel unusual symptoms or call NHS 111 if symptoms persist.
- Call 999 for an ambulance if a person has severe symptoms, such as loss of consciousness, confusion or seizures;

For more information visit:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/heatwave-how-to-cope-in-hot-weather/

The Adverse Weather and Health Plan for England is intended to protect the population from heat-related harm to health, to view the most up to date version, follow this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/heat

Cold weather

Extreme weather and cold temperatures increase the risk of illness and injury:

- Keep your home warm, ideally heat to at least 18°C.
- Get help with money - there are benefits and other help you can get to keep your home warm.
- Get the flu jab.
- Wear multiple layers and good grip shoes or boots if you have to go outside.
- Have plenty of food and hot drinks.

For more information visit:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/

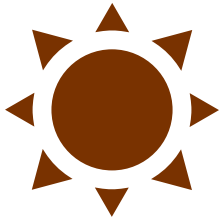
The Adverse Weather and Health Plan helps prevent the major avoidable effects on health during periods of cold weather in England. To view the information to help prevent the major effects of cold weather on health visit:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cold-weather-plan-for-england

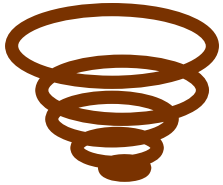
For information to help you, your business and your community plan for severe weather, visit the Community Resilience pages of the Met Office by following this link:

https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/environmental-hazard-resilience/community-resilience









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@metofficeWMids

Human and animal disease

We can't say when or what the next pandemic will be, but there are certain factors that make another pandemic a possibility, including:

- Climate change.
- Increase in travel.
- Greater movement and displacement of people.
- Global transport of animals, food and intensive food production methods.
- Humans encroaching on the habitat of wild animals.
- Better detection systems that spot new diseases.

Human diseases

Human diseases take a variety of forms, some of which have the potential to cause a civil emergency due to the number of people they might affect. One such risk is a pandemic. One such risk is an influenza (flu) pandemic which could occur if a flu virus evolves that few people are immune to. In a pandemic, the new disease will spread quickly and cause more serious illness in a large proportion of the population, due to the lack of immunity and no immediately available vaccine. There is a high probability of a pandemic occurring, but it is impossible to predict when, or exactly what it would be like.

Emerging infectious diseases are closely monitored by public health agencies and international partners such as the World Health Organisation:

https://www.who.int/

and the UK Health Security Agency: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency. Information will be provided on specific diseases as and when they emerge.

As a reminder, hygiene is the main method that can help prevent the spread of germs. Carry tissues and to use them to catch coughs or sneezes, bin the used tissues as soon as possible and then wash your hands to kill the germs.

Vaccinations

Check that you are up to date with your vacinations. If you are traveling abroad find out the health risks, vaccinations and medications that are recommended. Vaccination is one of the most important things we can do to protect ourselves against diseases.

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



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Animal diseases

Animal diseases threaten the UK for three main reasons:

1. The agricultural community is commercially important to West Mercia in the provision of employment; and in supporting other industries and local services. Each year we continue to see an increase in the number of infectious diseases in wild bird and commercial poultry, such as Avian (Bird) flu that pose a threat of evolving to affect people. Avian influenza (bird flu): advice for the public to reduce the risk of catching avian influenza - GOV.UK

2. They affect the animals on which we rely on for food, trade, or to maintain ecosystems, this is particularly true of West Mercia with its huge agricultural presence.

3. The potential for some diseases to spread from animals to humans and cause illness.

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The early identification and reporting of any suspicion of animal disease is vital. If you have concerns about the health of your animals, discuss them with your veterinary surgeon or report to Defra Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) directly. Latest information, resources and contacts can be found:

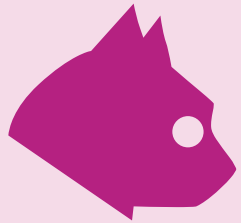
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals

You can also sign up to the Alerts Service to keep up to date with the latest news:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service

UKHSA guidance on reducing the risk of catching avian influenza.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu-advice-for-the-public-on-staying-safe



The World Organisation for Animal Health is a comprehensive resource of more than 50 wildlife diseases which may have a serious impact on livestock health and public health and can adversely affect wildlife conservation. To find out more, visit:

https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/information-on-aquatic-and-terrestrial-animal-diseases/

Animal welfare

Here are some useful contacts if you have concerns about an animal and its welfare.

https://www.rspca.org.uk/reportaconcern

https://www.rspb.org.uk/

Social disruption

Social disruption can be anything, from public disorder to industrial action (or strikes) with temporary closures and reduced services to critical public services.

Public disorder includes rioting, looting, vandalism, violence and arson. Consequences of public disorder may include:

- Physical/psychological casualties.
- Disruption to critical services, particularly policing and health.
- Damage to property and infrastructure.
- Possible evacuation or temporary shelter requirements.
- Possible economic damage.

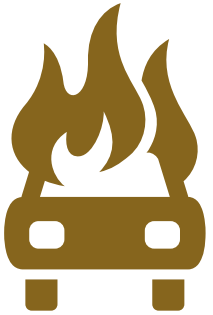
Industrial action can lead to:

- Disruption of essential services, particularly transport, finance, health and education.
- Disruption to business via loss of working hours.
- Possible public disorder.
- Economic damage (particularly for transport sector industrial action).

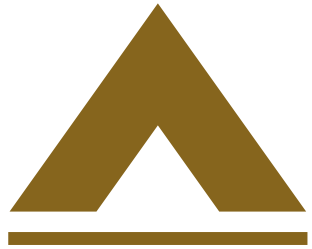
If you are unsure what to do:

Go in. Stay in. Tune in.

West Mercia Police plans and prepares for outbreaks of public disorder however unlikely. It has specially trained officers who are able to deploy quickly to local disorder or where necessary to support other parts of the country if disorder breaks out. They work very closely with other UK police forces to ensure that each area and the country as a whole are as well prepared as they can possibly be.







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Neighbourhood Matters

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community

For more information and to sign up, go to...

https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/

...and follow the onscreen instructions.

We have a number of Watch schemes across the three counties that can help you protect your home, your business and your local community. You can find out more about them, which are active in your area and how to register for them here:

https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/



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NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

RURAL MATTERS

YOUR BUSINESS MATTERS

WEST MERCIA HORSEWATCH

Contact us

The member organisations of West Mercia LRF meet regularly to assess the risks of accidents and emergencies and put in place plans to prevent or reduce risks. We have close links to government departments in order to share information on local risks. We train and exercise together to be as well prepared for emergencies as we can be.

This Community Risk Register is published by West Mercia LRF in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act, as its publisher we hope that it includes information that is relevant and useful to you. If you feel there is other helpful information available that might be included in this register please let us know.

Grateful thanks to other LRFs who have helped by sharing in our publication process, in particular thanks to our near neighbours, West Midlands LRF.

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For more information contact the West Mercia Local Resilience Forum:

Write to us at:

West Mercia Local Resilience Forum
c/o Force Operations
West Mercia Police
Hindlip Hall
Worcester
WR3 8SP

Email:
WMLRFsecretariat@westmercia.police.uk

To find out more about your Local Authority Resilience Team visit:

Herefordshire Council:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200139/community/346/emergency_planning_in_herefordshire/2

Malvern Hills District Council:

https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/community-safety/west-mercia-local-resilience-forum

Shropshire Council:

https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-prepared-emergencies-and-major-incidents/

Telford & Wrekin Council:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20254/emergencies

Worcestershire County Council:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/WorcsPrepared

Worcester City Council:

https://www.worcester.gov.uk/community-safety/accidents-emergencies-and-safety

Wychavon District Council:

https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-safety/west-mercia-local-resilience-forum

Wyre Forest District Council:

https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/community-and-environment/emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies/

Details of other LRFs can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-resilience-forums-contact-details