The Community Risk Register outlines all of the risks that Peterborough and Cambridgeshire face. This document is produced by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and updated annually following the National Risk Register review. The National Risk Register is a collective list of all of the risks faced by the UK. The LRF go through the national register and identify all of the risks to their area.

The risks in the CPLRF Community Risk Register determine the work undertaken by both the Resilience Team and the LRF. For example, if a new risk is added to the register the partners of the LRF will need to write a plan outlining how they would respond if there was an emergency that involved the new risk.

**Local Resilience Forum (LRF):** Process for bringing together all the category 1 and 2 responders within a police force area for the purpose of facilitating co-operation in fulfilment of their duties under the Civil Contingencies Act. Peterborough is part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF).

**More Information ...**

‘Risk Assessment: How the risk of emergencies in the UK is assessed’ is a page on the GOV.uk website that gives more information about the risk assessment process for the UK.
Peterborough has seen a couple of flooding events in the past, thankfully nothing as serious as the flooding in the Somerset Levels in December 2013/January 2014. It doesn't mean we can get complacent about flooding though, according to maps produced by the Environment Agency parts of Peterborough are at a high risk from flooding.

The Government website provides information about how to tackle the issue of flooding. ‘Prepare for a flood and get help during and after’ is a series of pages that look at:

- Finding if you’re at risk from flooding;
- Making a flood plan;
- Improve your property’s flood protection;
- Getting Insurance; and
- Getting help during and after a flood.

Figure 1 shows the flood risk to Peterborough. To find out if your property is at risk from flooding, please visit the Environment Agency website through the map above.
There are numerous links to other useful and relevant information produced by the Government, such as a [Flood Plan template](#) and guidance for [communities](#) and [businesses](#) and a guide about [how to use sandbags](#) effectively. The Council’s policy on issuing sandbags can be found [here](#).

If your property is at risk from flooding, it is advised to [sign up for flood warnings](#). Make sure you understand the actions for each flood warning.

**Who Can Help Me?**

The Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue [website](#), they have advice about flooding and their role in the response. They will only help in certain situations, mainly because their pumps only work when the water is deeper than 150mm. They also need another suitable place to pump the water to where it won’t have a detrimental effect.

The Fire and Rescue will not come to tow you out of flood water unless there is a risk to life; **so their advice is not to drive through flood water.**

**Driving in Flood Water**

On the AA’s website they have some advice and facts about [driving in heavy rain and floods](#).

**Road Closures**

It might be necessary to close some roads that have flooded and are too dangerous for vehicles. Road closures will be announced on the Peterborough City Council website and on their Twitter Account (@PeterboroughCC).

**It is illegal to move road closure signs or simply ignore them. You could be putting your life and other people’s lives at risk.**

If you ignore a road closure sign and your vehicle gets damaged your insurer might reject your claim as you ignored the road closure signs. Punishable offences, enforced by the Police, are outlined below:

- **£50 non-endorsable Fixed Penalty Notice:** For disobeying a road closed sign or any other traffic sign is neglect of traffic regulations and punishable by a £50 fine.
£100 endorsable Fixed Penalty Notice: For splashing a pedestrian or other road user could be deemed careless driving (eg. Tailgating, middle land hogging) and attract a £100 fine and possibly 3 points on your license.

Floodwater Facts

- The majority of drowning deaths in the UK occur within only 3m of a safe point
- 2/3 of those who die in flood-related accidents are considered to be good swimmers
- 32% of flood-related deaths are by drowning in a vehicle
- After 20 minutes in water at 12°C the temperature of the deep muscle of your forearm would drop from 37°C to 27°C, leading to a 30% reduction in muscle strength.
- In water 1m deep (waist high), flows of 1m/s become challenging and by 1.8m/s (4mph) everyone will be washed off their feet.
- If the speed of the flood water doubles the force it exerts on you/your car is quadrupled
- Just six inches of fast flowing water can knock you off your feet and be enough for you to be unable to regain your footing.
- Two feet of standing water will float your car
- Just one foot of flowing water could be enough to move the average family car
- Just an egg cupful of water in the combustion chamber could be enough to wreck an engine
- Flood water can be contaminated and carry diseases
- Culverts are dangerous when flooded – the siphon effect of culverts can drag in pets, children and even fully grown adults.

(AA, 2014)
Cold Weather

There is a strong evidence base relating to the health risks from cold weather and the effects of cold weather on health are predictable and mostly preventable. The direct impacts of cold weather on health are:

- heart attack
- stroke
- respiratory disease
- influenza
- falls and injuries
- hypothermia

Indirect effects of cold include mental health illnesses such as depression, and risk of carbon monoxide poisoning if boilers, cooking, and heating appliances are poorly maintained or poorly ventilated.

The Government have produced some leaflets about how to reduce your risk of getting ill during periods of cold weather. Their 2013 ‘Keep Warm Keep Well’ campaign was aimed at the elderly, low-income families and people with disabilities. It gives information on:

- Preparing for the cold (flu jab)
- Living a healthy lifestyle
- Heating your home effectively and safely
- Financial help – Winter Fuel Payment and Cold Weather Payment

Cold Weather Alerts

The Met Office provides alerts about the severity of the cold weather. There are 4 levels of alerts, based on the cold weather thresholds; these are:

- If the mean temperature falls below 2 degrees Celsius for 48 hours or longer
- Heavy snow and/or widespread ice

An alert can be issued if just 1 of the thresholds has been breached. The following table outlines the alerts along with a description.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Winter Preparedness and Long Term Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing awareness and planning by social and healthcare services. Public should be researching how the cold weather can affect their health and ways of reducing this risk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Alert and Readiness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Triggered when the risk is 60% or above for any of the thresholds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Cold Weather Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing weather which breaches any of the thresholds. The social and healthcare services target specific actions at high risk groups.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Emergency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weather is so severe and prolonged that it effects outside of the health and social care system. The health effects may occur among fit and healthy people not just the high risk group.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find information about the latest Cold Weather Alerts and how they are issued please visit the following website: [http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/coldweatheralert/).

Action Cards have been produced that provide information for individuals and community groups about actions that should be taken following a Cold Weather Alert.

**More Information ...**

**Met Office ‘Get Ready for Winter’**
Provides information about helping out in the community during periods of cold weather and protecting your home from the damage that cold weather can do. It also provides information about travelling safely.

**Public Health England ‘Cold Weather Plan for 2015’**
This is a national plan that outlines how England responds to cold weather. This specific part of the plan provides more information about the health impacts that can arise during cold periods and who is most at risk.
Cold Weather Payment
This is a link for a Government webpage outlining who is entitled to cold weather payments, with more information about when the scheme will start this year.

RAC – Winter Driving
The RAC have produced a number of pages dedicated to driving in all kinds of bad weather conditions and how to prepare your car before the cold weather arrives.

Communities Hub
Information about what other Community Groups are doing in the country.

Hot Weather (Heatwave)

Although there isn’t a recognised definition for a heat wave in the UK, the World Meteorological Organisation defines it as “when the daily maximum temperature of more than five consecutive days exceeds the average maximum temperature by 5 °C, the normal period being 1961-1990”.

Causes and Impacts
A heat wave is more common in the summer months in the UK because an area of high pressure develops. They are slow moving and can be present for prolonged periods of time. However, if the temperatures are consistently high, this can cause health problems in vulnerable people.

The severe impacts of a heat wave in the UK were experienced during August 2003, when extreme summer temperatures that lasted for 10 days resulted in an extra 2000 deaths across the whole of the country. Another example was July 2006, when the UK experienced record breaking temperatures (38.6°C in Kent) resulting in the hottest month on record in the UK (Met Office, 2013).

There are a number of factors that increase an individual’s risk during a heat wave. These include:

- Older Age - especially over 75 years old
- Chronic or severe illness
- Infants
- Homeless People
- People with drug and alcohol dependence
- Inability to adapt behaviour – such as people with Alzheimer’s
- Environmental Factors and over exposure – such as people living in urban areas.
For more information about these risk factors please visit the Government website found here.

**Heat Health Watch**
The Met Office run a service called Heat Health Watch, which releases alerts when a heat wave is likely to occur. It has 4 Levels of response based on the threshold maximum daytime and minimum night time temperatures. The Heat Health Watch only runs from 1st June to the 15th September every year. For the latest information please visit the Heat Health Watch website.

**Keeping Cool**
Prolonged heat can cause health problems, especially for the elderly, the very young and the ill. Public Health have produced a guidance document that outlines how to keep cool this summer. There are some handy hints and useful facts that everyone should know about how the heat can affect you. There is also updated guidance for health and social care professionals and care home managers about supporting vulnerable people during a heat wave.

Looking after yourself and others during hot weather: the latest guidance. (PDF, 2014)

Advice for Health and Social Care Professionals: supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave. (PDF, 2014)

Advice for Care Home Managers and Staff: Supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave. (PDF, 2014)

**Heatwave Plan**
The Heat wave Plan for England aims to prepare for, alert people to, and prevent, the major avoidable effects on health during periods of severe heat in England. To read the plan please visit the following link: Heat Wave Plan for England 2014.
Storms and Gales

Gales are the most common cause of damage and disruption in the UK. According to the ABI (Association of British Insurers), Gales cause at least £300 million of damage every year. So preparing for storms and gales is vital if you want to avoid claiming on your insurance.

Fact: The worst storm to hit Britain was ‘The Great Storm of 1703’ that ripped through East Anglia and South East England, killing at least 8000 people and ruining hundreds of ships, houses and churches.

Preparing for the Storms

The Met Office provides information about before, during and after the storm, it is useful to monitor the website for updates.

Aviva have a ‘How to prepare for Gale damage’ page on their website. This outlines some practical measures you can take to safeguard you, your family and your property.

ABI provide information on their website about Storm and Gale Advice that tell you what to do, in terms of insurance, if your property is damaged.

Power Cuts

UK Power Networks maintain the electricity cables for London, South East and East of England. This means that if there is a power cut, visiting their website on your mobile phone will potentially tell you why the power is out and how long for. There’s an option on there to receive calls or texts with updates about the power cut.

They have produced a leaflet for customers that provides some good advice about what to do during a power cut, compensation for damaged electrical equipment and advice for tropical fish keepers. There is a separate one for businesses too, this can be found here.

Priority Services

UK Power Networks has a priority service where they provide extra support and care to vulnerable people during a power cut. However, by signing up to this service your power won’t come back on more quickly, but they will help you as
much as they can whilst restoring the power supply. To see if you fit the criteria and for more information please look at the UK Power Networks website.

For more information about power cuts please visit the UK Power Networks website.

**Thunderstorms**

A thunderstorm can be described as one or more sudden electrical discharges, manifested by a flash of light (lightning) and a sharp or rumbling sound (thunder). Thunderstorms are associated with convective clouds and are most often, but not necessarily, accompanied by precipitation at the ground’ (Met Office, 2011).

**Fact:** Ninety per cent of lightning discharges go from cloud to cloud or between parts of the same cloud, never actually reaching the Earth.

Thunder and lightning can be terrifying to some people, especially young children and the elderly. It’s a good idea to check on them afterwards. The British Red Cross website has information about what to do during a thunderstorm.

The Met Office have provided the following Do’s and Don’ts during a thunderstorm:

**Don’t...**

• Venture outside, unless absolutely necessary.

• Use plug-in electrical equipment like hair driers, electric toothbrushes, or electric razors during the storm.

• Use the telephone during the storm. Lightning may strike telephone lines outside.

• Take laundry off the clothesline.

• Work on telephone or power lines, pipelines, or structural steel fabrication.

• Use metal objects like golf clubs.

• Handle flammable materials in open containers.
• Stay on hilltops, in open spaces, near wire fences, metal clotheslines, exposed sheds, and any electrically conductive elevated objects.

Do...

• Stay indoors.

• Stay away from open doors and windows, radiators, metal pipes, and plug-in electrical appliances.

• Get out of the water and off small boats.

• Stay in your car if you are travelling. Cars offer excellent lightning protection.

• Seek shelter in buildings. If no buildings are available, your best protection is a cave, ditch, or under head-high clumps of trees in open forest glades.

• When there is no shelter, avoid the highest object in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, your best protection is to crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from isolated trees as the trees are high.

• When you feel the electrical charge if your hair stands on end or your skin tingles lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to the ground immediately.

Thunderstorm Asthma

Some people aren’t aware that thunderstorms can increase your chances of having an asthma attack. Asthma UK has more information about the link and what to do if it happens.

More information ...

The Met Office have produced a fact sheet that details more information about thunderstorm asthma, it outlines who is more likely to be affected along with some general facts about the link between the two factors.

For more information about the risks to Peterborough, please contact the Resilience Team on 01733 453451 or email resilienceteam@peterborough.gov.uk