

2025

Lancashire Community Risk Register Summary



**Lancashire
Resilience Forum**
Preparing for emergencies

2025 Lancashire Community Risk Register - Summary



Every Resilience Forum has a **Community Risk Register (CRR)** that describes risks for their community and assesses how likely they are to lead to an emergency and the potential impact they would have. The register is created through a risk assessment and the information is used to plan and prepare for emergencies that may occur. This is the **Community Risk Register for Lancashire**, developed by the **Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF)**.

The potential for national emergencies is determined by Government in its **National Risk Register**. The LRF refers to this in order to consider national issues alongside local risk context and identify the risks within the county. These risks can arise due to lots of factors – from natural events such as weather, diseases and accidents, to deliberate acts such as terrorism. This risk assessment can help identify new issues or highlight situations where risk may be changing.

Each identified risk is then analysed and given a rating according to how likely the risk is to lead to an emergency and its potential impact on criteria such as safety and security, health, economy, environment and society.

The LRF uses this likelihood and impact to determine whether to include it in the Community Risk Register and continues to monitor the risks at each of its meetings. This is to check whether they are still relevant and that there are no newly emerging issues to consider.

The matrix below is used to identify categories of risk from limited to moderate to high impact, and can assist with determining the appropriate course of action for the treatment of that risk, helping to ensure resilience planning is focused and proportionate and based on the generic consequences (likely impact) of the highest risks.

Catastrophic (5)	Significant/ Catastrophic		Higher impact risks with higher likelihood		
Significant (4)	Risks with very low likelihood				
Moderate (3)					
Minor (5)			Limited to moderate impact risks of all likelihoods		
Limited (5)					
	1 < 0.2%	2 0.2% - 1%	3 1% - 5%	4 5% - 25%	5 25% <

a) High impact risks

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

b) Significant/Catastrophic risks with very low likelihood

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

c) Limited to moderate impact risks of all likelihoods

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

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Influenza-type pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • Greater demand on health and social care systems; vulnerable people may receive lower levels of required care. • Staff shortages, causing disruption to emergency services, shop closures and food shortages. 	4	5	
Emerging infectious diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large numbers of deaths or injuries, with places needed to help hospitals deal with an increased number of patients and mortuary spaces so that people can be treated with dignity. • Disruption to public services such as school closures, bin collections and welfare payments. • Significant disruption to all sectors of society. 	4	4	
Industrial action (fuel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Disruption to business through lost working hours. • Possible public order challenges. • Economic damage. 	4	4	
Surface water flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Damage to homes, businesses, agricultural land, roads and other infrastructure, leaving behind polluted or contaminated silt or rubble. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Evacuation from homes and/or the area. • Long-term restoration and recovery, affecting personal health and wellbeing. • Businesses, especially those related to tourism, may face significant difficulties. 	4	4	
Failure of the national electricity transmission system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to essential goods and services, including food and transport. • Closure of businesses, schools or public buildings. 	3	5	
Coastal flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Damage to homes, businesses, agricultural land, roads and other infrastructure, leaving behind polluted or contaminated silt or rubble. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Evacuation from homes and/or the area. • Long-term restoration and recovery, affecting personal health and wellbeing. • Businesses, especially tourism-related, may face significant difficulties. 	3	4	
Fluvial flooding (when rivers and streams break their banks)		3	4	
Gas supply failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life due to inability to heat homes in colder weather. • Disruption to business. <p>Movement of people who have to be evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there.</p>	3	4	
Rail networks incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to road, rail and air transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. 	5	3	
Systematic financial crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to essential services, particularly transport, food, water, fuel, gas, finance, communications and education. • Potential illness and loss of life due to loss of essential services. • Economic damage, particularly to business. 	5	3	

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Volcanic eruption	<p>The UK is in close proximity to a number of volcanoes in Europe, in particular Bárðarbunga and Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland, which erupt frequently and, due to prevailing winds, are more likely to blow ash and gas towards us. This could result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life caused by poor air quality. • Loss of/disruption to essential services, especially transport. • Economic damage to business and tourism as a result of disruption to air travel. • Environmental contamination, especially water and agriculture. 	4	3	
Influx of British Nationals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to road, rail and air transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Relocation of people who may not have anywhere to stay. 	4	3	
Severe Space Weather (e.g. geomagnetic storm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to satellite services, interrupting television broadcasts and reducing accuracy of weather forecasts. • Loss of/disruption to essential services, including transport. • Disruption to business communication, particularly in retail finance, energy and communications. • Increase in radiation causing threat to equipment and health in space and at high altitude. 	4	3	
Disruption or loss of telecommunications systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to essential services. • Loss of connectivity. 	3	3	
Poor air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbation of pre-existing health conditions, such as asthma. • Adverse effects on lung function. • Coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. • Increases in respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions and fatalities. • Pressure on healthcare, particularly hospital referrals and demands on ambulances. • Environmental damage. • Economic damage. 	3	3	
Low temperature and heavy snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous road conditions. • Vulnerable people exposed to temperatures that might harm their health. • Power cuts, food shortages and closures of schools, businesses and public buildings. 	3	3	
Heatwave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory problems, dehydration, heat exhaustion and sunburn - often resulting in hospitalisation. • Stationery vehicles, overheated engines and melting roads/pathways make travel uncomfortable. 	3	3	
Technological failure at a retail bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to access bank accounts online or via mobile apps. <p>Difficulties carrying out other routine banking activities, including in person at bank branches.</p>	3	3	
Loss of Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for public transport to be affected including train signals. • Loss of communication between HM Coastguard and vessels at sea. • Loss of communication in airspace, such as commercial flights. 	2	4	

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Reservoir/dam collapse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Lasting damage to homes, businesses, agricultural land, roads and other infrastructure, leaving behind polluted or contaminated silt or rubble. • Disruption to essential services. • Evacuation from homes and/or the area. • Restoration and recovery can take a long time, often taking a toll on personal health and wellbeing. • Businesses – especially those involved in tourism – may face significant difficulties. 	2	4	
Major outbreak of animal disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • Economic damage, particularly to the livestock industry and through lost trade. • Animal welfare impacts that may result in the animal having to be euthanised. • Impacts on wildlife, biodiversity and the environment. • Disruption to tourism and rural communities. 	2	4	
Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life, particularly among vulnerable groups. • Loss of/disruption to essential services, particularly transport, water supply, energy and communications. • Additional pressure on healthcare. • Environmental damage. 	2	4	
Radiation release from overseas nuclear accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Individuals' health may be affected by breathing in materials. • Animals and the environment may also be harmed. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Evacuation of homes and/or the area. 	1	5	
Industrial action (firefighters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to emergency services. • Potential injury and loss of life. 	4	2	
Incident occurring at sports grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Large numbers of deaths or injuries with places needed to help hospitals deal, with an increased number of patients and mortuary spaces so that people can be treated with dignity. 	4	2	
Major social care provider failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Disruption to public services. • Reduced trust in social care providers. 	4	2	
Storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power cuts. • Potential injury and loss of life through collapsed or dangerous structures and loose debris. • Large waves leading to coastal flooding. 	3	2	

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Public disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Disruption to critical services, particularly policing and health. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Evacuation or temporary shelter requirements. • Economic damage. • Ongoing community tension and concern. 	3	2	
Industrial action (public transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to essential services, particularly transport, health and education. • Disruption to business through lost working hours. • Possible public order challenges. • Economic damage. 	3	2	
Accident involving high consequence dangerous goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Disruption to road, rail and air transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Potential large fire and/or explosion. • Movement of people who have to be evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. 	3	2	
Insolvency of supplier(s) of critical services to the public sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to essential goods and services. • Economic damage. 	3	2	
Water infrastructure failure or loss of drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • No access to clean water. • Disruption to public services such as school closures. • Environmental damage. 	2	3	
Major fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Environmental damage, air pollution and water contamination. 	2	2	
Pier evacuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. 	2	2	
Civil nuclear accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Individuals' health may also be affected by breathing in materials. • Animals and the environment may also be harmed. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Evacuation from homes and/or the area. 	1	4	

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Aviation incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to road, rail and air transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Large numbers of deaths or injuries, with places needed to help hospitals deal with an increased number of patients and mortuary spaces so that people can be treated with dignity. 	1	4	
Aviation crash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to road, rail and air transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Large numbers of deaths or injuries, with places needed to help hospitals deal with an increased number of patients and mortuary spaces so that people can be treated with dignity. 	1	4	
Fire or explosion at an offshore oil or gas installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Contaminated water/land, environmental damage. • Disruption to maritime transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Disruption or interruption of imports. 	1	3	
Accidental fire or explosion at onshore major hazard (COMAH) site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Individuals' health affected by breathing in materials. • Harm to animals and the environment. • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Evacuation from homes and/or the area. 	1	3	
Incident involving passenger vessel close to UK waters involving partial evacuation at sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of people who have to be evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Disruption to maritime transport networks, requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. 	1	3	
Explosion at a high-pressure gas pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Damage and destruction of building and infrastructure. • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. 	1	3	
Waste site fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Disruption to public health services. • Movement of those stranded or evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Environmental damage, air pollution and contaminated water. 	3	1	
Industrial action (prison officers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/disruption to essential services. • Disruption to business through lost working hours. • Possible public order challenges. 	2	1	

Risk Title	Common consequences	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk Rating
Accidental release of biological pathogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential illness and loss of life. • Disruption to health systems, food systems and the economy. 	1	2	
Radiation exposure from stolen goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life, with many people requiring long-term medical care. • Damage to property and infrastructure. • Introduction of exclusion zones. • Decontamination of affected persons, property and the environment. • Evacuation, shelter and potential relocation of affected individuals. 	1	2	
Incident (grounding / sinking) of a vessel blocking a major port	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated water/land. • Disruption to maritime transport networks requiring provision of help and information to those stranded. • Disruption or interruption of imports. 	1	2	
Insolvency affecting fuel supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to fuel supplies. 	1	2	
Earthquake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential injury and loss of life. • Movement of people who have to be evacuated from home or work, which may require provision of safe places to shelter and transport to get there. • Damage to property and infrastructure, particularly to older buildings. • Minor disruption to essential services such as water, electricity, telecommunications and transport. 	1	1	

Malicious Attacks: For information on malicious attacks see the [National Risk Register](#)