



# North Wales

## PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES





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## INTRODUCTION

**As part of the work of preparing for emergencies across the region, key partners work together to prepare the North Wales Community Risk Register.**

This document provides information on the biggest emergencies that could happen in the region and includes the impact on people, communities, the environment and local businesses. These risks are regularly reviewed and listed on the regional Risk Register.

The Risk Register is compiled by the North Wales Resilience Forum which is made up of representatives of the main

agencies involved in responding to emergencies – the emergency services, local authorities, health, environment and utility organisations.

The overall purpose is to ensure representatives work together to achieve an appropriate level of preparedness to respond to emergencies that may have a significant impact on the communities of North Wales.

### **North Wales Area Profile**

Located on the west of the British Isles, North Wales is bound on the north and west by the Irish Sea, to the east by the border with England (specifically

the counties of Cheshire and Shropshire) and to the South by the border with mid-Wales (specifically the counties of Powys and Ceredigion).

The land area of North Wales is approximately 6,172 square kilometres (which equates to 29% of the total land area of Wales), and the coastline is almost 400 kilometres long.

North Wales is divided into six counties - Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham.

North Wales has a total resident population of 694,826 (2016 Office for National Statistics

data), which is largely concentrated in the more industrial and urbanised areas of the North East and along the North Wales coast. The population increases significantly during summer months. Less than a quarter (22.32%) of the total Welsh population lives in North Wales.

Over the following pages, we will look at the key risks we face in North Wales; explain what the agencies involved in responding to emergencies are doing to plan for these risks and provide advice on how you can prepare.



## FLOODING

Flooding has been identified as a very high risk for the North Wales area, with 53,860 properties across the region at risk of flooding.

Storm surges which raise high tide levels can affect many coastal communities and lead to overtopping of existing sea-defences. This results in the flooding of residential and commercial properties.

There is also a risk of river flooding caused by excess rainfall.

As well as the immediate effect on people's daily lives when flooding hits and the possibility of evacuation is imminent, the work of recovering from wide scale flooding can last long after water levels have subsided.

With climate change projections indicating that we can expect to see more frequent and severe storms and an increase in sea levels, it is likely that coastal flooding will become more common in years to come.

### Consequences:

The predicted impacts could include:

- ◆ Risk to life (people and animals).
- ◆ Damage to property, businesses, agricultural land, roads, structures and infrastructure.
- ◆ Pollution and contamination of local environments.
- ◆ Long term damage to tourism, businesses and agriculture.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Monitoring forecasts and providing timely warnings to those at risk.
- ◆ Strategic planning to protect the areas at risk and maintaining sea defences.
- ◆ Working together to help minimise disruption to critical services.
- ◆ Working with partners to raise awareness of flood risk and steps they can take to prepare themselves for flooding.



### What should you do?

- ◆ Find out if your property is at risk of flooding.
- ◆ Sign-up to receive flood warnings by phone, text or email.
- ◆ Consider how you can protect your own property. If there's time and it's safe for you to do so, fit any flood protection products you have available.
- ◆ Check with your insurance company that your policy covers flooding.
- ◆ Where possible, move valuable items to upper floors during times of flood risk.
- ◆ Check forecasts and heed any warnings.
- ◆ If it's safe to do so, check on vulnerable neighbours and relatives.
- ◆ Visit [www.naturalresources.wales/flooding](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding) for advice and guidance.



## SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather can cause significant problems and disruption to our everyday lives.



The main types of severe weather that we plan for include storms and gales; low temperatures with heavy snow or ice; and heatwaves.

North Wales has experienced most of these during the past few years and forecasters suggest that severe weather events are likely to become more common in the future.

### Consequences:

- ◆ Travel disruption.
- ◆ Vulnerable / older people can suffer from the effects of cold or excessive heat.
- ◆ Disruption to utilities.
- ◆ School closures.
- ◆ Slips / falls.
- ◆ Collisions.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Monitoring the forecasts all year round.
- ◆ Working together to help minimise disruption to critical services.
- ◆ Designing and planning our services to be resilient.
- ◆ Gritting and ploughing of designated routes.



### What should you do?

- ◆ Check weather forecast and heed any warnings.
- ◆ Plan your journeys / activities accordingly.
- ◆ Check on older neighbours and relatives.
- ◆ Take action - keep warm or keep hydrated.
- ◆ Avoid non-essential journeys during times of severe weather.



## A PANDEMIC

A pandemic occurs when a virus emerges which is able to spread from person to person. Most people don't have immunity, and the virus spreads across the world.

Large numbers of people may become infected by this new virus over a relatively short period of time.

Unlike a normal flu virus, which occurs during the winter months, a pandemic can occur at any time in one or more waves, possibly weeks or months apart.

The spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus has demonstrated the unpredictability of the impact of pandemics. This virus has impacted upon the lives of millions of people across the globe and has led to the death of hundreds of thousands of people.

### Consequences:

Many millions of people around the world can become infected by a pandemic. Up to half the UK population may become infected and between 50,000 and 750,000 additional deaths may occur by the end of a pandemic. Normal life is likely to face wide disruption, particularly due to staff shortages affecting the provision of essential services, including production and transport of goods.



#### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ As the Covid-19 pandemic has shown, the NHS has arrangements in place to work with a wide-range of partners to manage increased demand on health care services.
- ◆ Partners work to distribute medicines and vaccinating those at risk, as soon as an appropriate vaccine is produced, in the event of a pandemic.
- ◆ Plans and procedures are tested and reviewed and improvements identified and implemented.
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#### Things you can do:

- ◆ In the event of a pandemic, follow the latest guidance from health authorities.
- ◆ Keep healthy - a healthy lifestyle is a great defence against flu and other illnesses.
- ◆ Identify a flu friend - somebody who is well who would help you if you caught pandemic flu by collecting your medication, food and other necessities for you.
- ◆ If eligible, have your free seasonal flu vaccine every year.
- ◆ Flu vaccinations may also be available for those who aren't eligible for a free vaccine. Details will be available at your local community pharmacy.
- ◆ To avoid spreading flu germs, cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze and wash your hands.



## TERRORIST INCIDENTS

Over recent times, the issue of terrorist attacks has regularly been in the news. But it's been on the agenda for the police and security service for much longer. They have been working constantly to foil terrorists for many years.

Whilst the probability of getting

caught up in a terror attack is very small, the threat from terrorism is very real.

Terrorists work to damage communities. However, by working together communities can tackle the problem so that everyone can go about their everyday lives freely and with confidence.

### Consequences:

- ◆ Whilst attacks of this nature are still very rare in the UK, recent events at home and abroad have meant that people are understandably concerned about firearms or weapons attacks.
- ◆ The impact and consequences of a terror attack would be wide ranging and irrevocable.
- ◆ Mass fatalities, widespread injury, fear and worry and damage to property or infrastructure are all possibilities.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ The police lead all planning in relation to counter terrorism but key partners work with them to help reduce the risk and ensure the protection of the public by supporting the national Counter Terrorism Strategy.

- ◆ If there's nowhere to go, then hide. It's better to hide than confront the attackers.
- ◆ Remember to turn your mobile phone to silent and turn off the vibrate setting.
- ◆ Barricade yourself in if you can.
- ◆ Then finally, and only when it is safe to do so, tell the police by calling 999.



### Things you can do:

If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789321.

- ◆ In the unlikely event of getting caught up in a terrorist incident, use the **Run, Hide, Tell** advice:
- ◆ Run to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate.

If you are asked to evacuate – follow all instructions from the emergency services.



**IN THE RARE EVENT OF  
a firearms or weapons attack**

 <b>RUN</b>	<b>RUN</b> - to a place of safety. This is a better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...
 <b>HIDE</b>	<b>HIDE</b> - Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can.
 <b>TELL</b>	<b>TELL</b> - the police by calling 999 when it is safe to do so.

[www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe](http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe)



## INDUSTRIAL INCIDENTS

Industrial accidents can occur on regulated sites or can involve vehicles or vessels transporting industrial materials through the North Wales area.

Incidents may involve industrial explosions and major fires, toxic or radioactive release or have the potential to cause serious injuries to the public and damage the local environment.

There is a range of legislation in place to manage the risk:

- ◆ Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 aim to prevent major accidents involving dangerous

substances and limit the effects on the public and the environment.

- ◆ North Wales hosts two former nuclear power stations, with Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations 2019 (REPPPIR) in place to manage potential risks.
- ◆ Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 also enforce regulations that relate to the high pressure Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP) that cross through North Wales.

### Consequences:

- ◆ Health risks to the public.
- ◆ Pollution of natural environment.
- ◆ Possible damage to property and the local area.
- ◆ Possible impact on tourism and local businesses.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Working with site operators to develop off-site response plans and specific information to neighbouring communities on what to do in the event of an incident.
- ◆ Facilitating regular exercises to rehearse on site and off site response arrangements identifying sites which may pose a risk and developing multi agency response procedures.



### What should you do?

- ◆ Be aware if you live near an industrial site and take note of any communications you may receive from site operators. Follow those instructions and wait for further advice.
- ◆ If you hear a warning of an emergency incident, go indoors, close all windows and doors and tune into local radio/ social media for further advice.
- ◆ Co-operate with the emergency services fully. They are there to help. Stay calm and listen to their instructions if you are evacuated from your home for any reason.





## LOSS OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical Infrastructure is the name given to the services we rely on as part of modern life and a modern economy; these include electricity, gas, drinking water, telecoms, oil and fuel.

With increasing reliance on utilities such as electricity, water and gas for so many aspects of our lives, even localised losses can have a significant impact on those affected.



### Consequences:

- ◆ Lack of drinking water.
- ◆ Homes without electricity / gas / oil limits people's ability to prepare food and stay warm.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Working with utility companies to manage interruptions to supplies.
- ◆ Developing multi-agency plans to manage longer term interruptions to services.
- ◆ Identifying vulnerable residents who may need additional support.



### What should you do?

- ◆ Make a note of contact numbers for the utilities companies.
- ◆ Find out where and how to turn off the water, gas and electricity supply in your home.
- ◆ Keep an emergency kit ready.
- ◆ Check on neighbours and relatives.



## ANIMAL DISEASE

Animal diseases that present the most concern are those which are highly contagious, cause high fatality rates amongst livestock or have the possibility of infecting humans.



There have been a number of significant animal disease outbreaks in the United Kingdom; Foot and Mouth Disease, Bluetongue, Anthrax and Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) being the most notable recent examples.

### Consequences:

- ◆ Impact on agriculture, food chain, rural economy and tourism.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Production of multi-agency contingency plans for managing animal disease outbreaks.
- ◆ Raising disease awareness amongst farmers and farm workers.



### What do you need to do?

- ◆ If an outbreak is declared then follow any guidance from the government at the time to protect your livestock and limit the spread.
- ◆ Vaccinate livestock where possible.
- ◆ Make sure to follow the Countryside Code when you're out and about.
- ◆ If an outbreak is declared, follow advice from relevant authorities in order to help limit the spread of disease.



## POLLUTION

Pollution of our coastline, rivers, reservoirs, land or air could have serious impact on health, the environment and the

local economy. Pollution can take the form of an oil spill, a chemical leak or smoke from a large fire.



### Consequences:

- ◆ Health risk to local residents and visitors.
- ◆ Damage to environment and wildlife.
- ◆ Impact on tourism or agriculture.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ Maintaining multi-agency plans for the clean-up of spills or leaks to minimise impact.



### What should you do?

- ◆ If you become aware of a potential incident of pollution, report the matter to your local county council in the first instance.
- ◆ Follow the advice given by the organisations responding to the incident. e.g. stay indoors, close windows.
- ◆ Tune in to local radio / follow trusted social media.



## TRANSPORT INCIDENTS

The vast majority of us rely on transport links in our everyday lives – to travel to and from work or to access essential services. Therefore, when an incident or accident affects key transport links, such as the A55 and other trunk roads, the consequences can be far-reaching and could endanger lives.

Transport emergencies can be the result of accidents or disruption caused by severe weather such as snow and floods. Key partners including emergency services, the Welsh Government, North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency, county councils, rail and ferry companies work together to provide information on transport accidents and put diversions or alternative transport arrangements in place where necessary.

### Consequences:

- ◆ Disruption to normal travel capabilities.
- ◆ Injury or risk to life and possible delays in emergency services reaching people.
- ◆ People stranded in vehicles in possibly severe weather conditions.
- ◆ Environmental impacts if hazardous materials are spilled / released into local environment.
- ◆ Possible damage to buildings or infrastructure.
- ◆ Impact on local businesses due to delays.



### What are we doing in North Wales?

- ◆ All relevant highways authorities work together to plan for major incidents and keep all major roads accessible during times of disruption.
- ◆ Work with railways, ports and ferry companies to plan for incidents affecting passengers.



### What should you do?

- ◆ Plan your journey in advance and listen to the local radio.
- ◆ Have an emergency kit in your car.
- ◆ Ensure your vehicle is in a roadworthy and safe condition and abide by the rules of the road.
- ◆ Avoid non-essential journeys during times of severe weather.



## BEING PREPARED IN THE HOME

### What can you do to be better prepared in your home?

In the case of most major emergencies, the simple advice is to go inside, stay inside and tune into local radio, television and trusted social media.

#### Planning for an emergency:

To prepare for an emergency, you should take time to find out:

- ◆ Where and how to turn off water, gas and electricity supplies in your home
- ◆ The emergency procedures for your children at school
- ◆ The emergency procedures in your workplace
- ◆ How your family will stay in contact in the event of an emergency
- ◆ If any older or vulnerable neighbours might need your help
- ◆ How to tune in to your local radio station.



### At home in an emergency:

Gather the following as an emergency kit:

- ◆ A list of useful phone numbers, e.g. for your doctor and close relatives
- ◆ House and car keys
- ◆ Toiletries, sanitary supplies and any regularly prescribed medication
- ◆ A wind-up radio or battery powered radio with spare batteries
- ◆ A first aid kit
- ◆ Mobile phone and charger
- ◆ Cash and bank cards
- ◆ Bottled water, ready to eat food.

A template to help develop a Home Emergency Plan is available from [www.nwc-reps.org.uk](http://www.nwc-reps.org.uk)



### Leaving your home in an emergency:

In certain situations, you may be asked to leave your home by the emergency services. If this happens, leave as quickly and calmly as possible.

#### If you have time:

- ◆ Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, unplug appliances and lock all doors and windows
- ◆ Take your emergency kit
- ◆ If you leave by car, take bottled water and blankets
- ◆ Take your pets (with suitable carriers or leads) and pet food
- ◆ Tune in to local radio / trusted social media for emergency advice and instructions.

Listen to the advice from emergency services or local authorities about any specific actions which you must follow when it is safe to return home.



## BUSINESSES BEING PREPARED

If you own or are responsible for a business or organisation, have you considered the impacts from external emergencies?



### How would your organisation cope with:

- ◆ A sudden and significant reduction in staff.
- ◆ Denial of access to a site or geographical area.
- ◆ Unexpected loss of mains electricity.
- ◆ A temporary disruption to gas supplies, water mains and sewerage.
- ◆ Significant disruption to transport.
- ◆ Loss of telecommunications.

### Make sure your business has a continuity plan.

#### 1. Understand your business.

What parts of the business are critical and what priority would you allocate to restoring functions if they fail?

#### 2. What risks does your business face?

Consider these risks within your business risk assessment. What can you put in place to reduce the likelihood of the risks and/ or the impact of them?

#### 3. Consider the resources needs of each of your business functions

- ◆ People
- ◆ Premises
- ◆ Equipment
- ◆ Information
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ External suppliers/contractors

#### 4. Document information in a user-friendly format about your business critical functions and the resources required including alternatives / back-ups for each.

#### 5. Train and test your staff in activating the continuity plan and the roles and procedures within it.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

### FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IS AVAILABLE FROM:

#### Isle of Anglesey County Council

01248 750057  
www.anglesey.gov.uk  
@angleseycouncil  
/IOACC/

#### Conwy County Borough Council

01492 574000  
www.conwy.gov.uk  
@ConwyCBC  
/ConwyCBC

#### Denbighshire County Council

01824 706000  
www.denbighshire.gov.uk  
@DenbighshireCC  
/denbighshirecountycouncil

#### Flintshire County Council

01352 752121  
www.flintshire.gov.uk  
@FlintshireCC

#### Gwynedd Council

01766 771000  
www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru  
@CyngorGwynedd  
/CyngorGwyneddCouncil

#### Wrexham County Borough Council

01978 292000 / 01978 292055  
www.wrexham.gov.uk  
@wrexhamcbc  
/wrexhamcouncil

#### North Wales Police

101 or 0300 330 0101  
www.north-wales.police.uk  
@NWPolice  
/NorthWalesPolice

#### North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

01745 535 250  
www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk  
@NorthWalesFire  
/Northwalesfireservice

#### Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust

01745 532900  
www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk  
@WelshAmbulance  
/welshambulanceservice

#### Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

01248 384 384  
www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk  
@BCUHB  
/bcuhealthboard

#### H M Maritime and Coastguard Agency

01407 762051  
www.dft.gov.uk/mca/  
@MCA\_media  
/MCA

#### Natural Resources Wales

0300 065 3000  
www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk  
@NatResWales  
/NatResWales

#### Public Health Wales

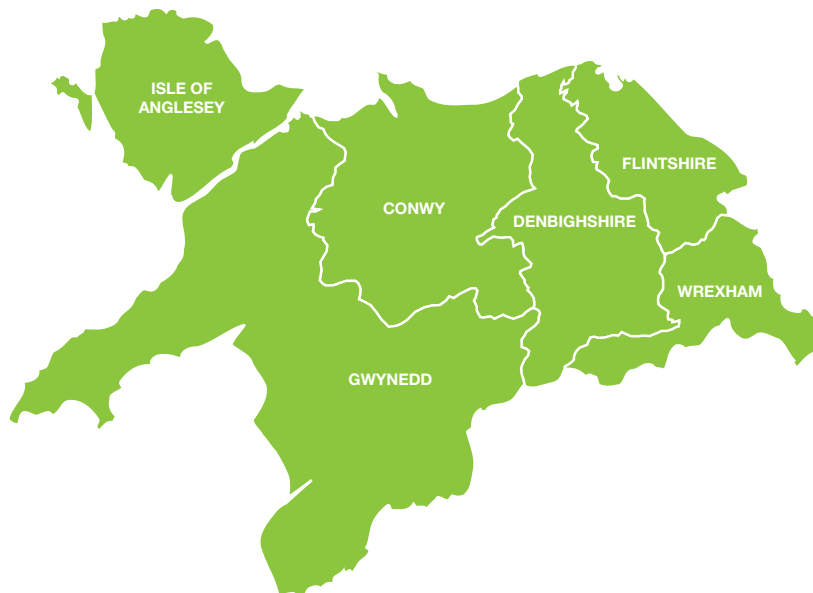
02920 227 744 /  
general.enquiries@wales.nhw.uk  
www.publichealthwales.org  
@PublicHealthW  
/PublicHealthWales

#### Traffic Wales Service

0300 123 1213  
www.traffic.wales  
@TrafficWalesN

#### North Wales Resilience Forum

@NWRF2012  
/North Wales Resilience Forum



## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Power Cuts:**

105

**Gas Emergency:**

0800 111 999

**Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water:**

0800 052 0130

[www.dwrcymru.com](http://www.dwrcymru.com)

**Hafren Dyfrdwy:**

0800 085 8033

[www.hdcymru.co.uk](http://www.hdcymru.co.uk)

**NHS Direct Wales:**

0845 46 47

[www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk)

**Floodline:**

0345 988 1188

[www.naturalresources.wales/flooding](http://www.naturalresources.wales/flooding)

## LOCAL MEDIA

**BBC Radio Wales:**

103.9 FM

**BBC Radio Cymru:**

92.4 - 94.6 FM

**HEART North Wales and West:**

103.4 96.3 & 103 FM

**Dee106.3 FM:**

106.3 FM

**Môn FM:**

102.5 FM

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

[www.traffic.wales](http://www.traffic.wales)

[www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

[www.gov.wales/wales-resilience-forum](http://www.gov.wales/wales-resilience-forum)

[www.bbc.co.uk/wales](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales)

**In the event of an emergency dial 999.**



