



Individual Risk Assessments

Hazard/threat Category	
3. Severe/extreme weather conditions - Storms and Gales	
Date of Revision	Next review date
01/07/2014	01/07/2017
Overview of hazard or threat:	
<p>Since the landscape of Norfolk is mainly undulating, strong winds from all points of the compass may lead to impacts. Atlantic storms that sweep in from the west or south west, leave all areas at the risk from potential widespread disruption to transport and community life. As a coastal County, Norfolk is also vulnerable to strong winds blowing from off the North Sea, with coastal areas particularly exposed to these. Regardless of direction, the main concern is loss of electricity and communications within our outlying parishes.</p> <p>Major storms can result in: damage to the national grid network, power cuts and fuel shortages. Gales combined with high tides can lead to tidal surges down the North Sea, with flooding of tidal rivers and parts of the coast.</p> <p>Most rural communities within Norfolk rely on heating oil deliveries, from a limited number of local distributors. Meanwhile, the strong farming and haulage company community – upon which the local economy is reliant, is also heavily dependent on these fuel deliveries. Storms and gales can prevent these vital fuel supplies from being transported around Norfolk.</p>	
Key historical evidence (last 5 years or of particular note):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most years bring spells of windy and stormy weather at various times. • Typical climatological conditions in Norfolk mean that very windy or stormy weather can occur at almost any time of the year. • 23/24 December 2013 – Gales over many parts of Norfolk, especially eastern areas where gusts exceeded 75mph, bringing localised travel disruption. • 28 October 2013 – Storm St Jude resulting in traffic problems due to fallen trees. Train services suspended.. Surface water flooding loss of numerous utilities and structural damage. Gusts of between 60 and 70mph across parts of the county. • 12 September 2011- gusts of 45 to 55mph. • 27 October 2002 – gusts of 70 to 80mph across many parts of Norfolk. 	
Likelihood:	
Hazard	Likelihood
3. Severe/extreme weather conditions	Medium
Impact:	
Summary:	
Hazard	Impact
3. Severe/extreme weather conditions	Moderate
Details:	

Impact associated with risk		
Primary:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of utilities • Falling trees, accumulation of debris etc impacting on transport networks • Structural damage to buildings and structures • Potential casualties/fatalities 		
Secondary		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on economy • Possible homelessness • Waste disposal/clean up • Business continuity issues • Structural integrity of properties neighbouring those directly affected • Longer term road closures & impacts on transport networks • Vulnerable people affected (services disrupted/isolated); economic impact 		
Overall assessment:		
Category:		
3. Severe/extreme weather conditions		
Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating
Medium	Overall	13
	Fatalities	1
	Casualties	2
	Economic	4
	Social Disruption	4
	Psychological	2
High		
Controls in place		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forecasting information and procedures from the Met Office and Environment Agency. Major Emergency Response Plans in place with Category 1 responders • Parish Emergency Co-ordinators recruited to inform the local authority of problems in their parishes. • National Flood Forecasting Service introduced 1st of April 2009. • Parish Emergency Plans to include flood risk where appropriate. • Humanitarian Assistance Plan • Utilities response plans • NRF Emergency Response Guidance • Norfolk Emergency Media Plan • NRF Recovery Guidance • Organisational Business Continuity Plans • Utility Operators emergency warning and response plans 		