

Emergency Preparedness in Southampton

8) That the Committee are provided with:

- A summary of the emergency planning scenarios and outcomes
- Specific examples of emergency planning scenarios

Scrutiny Monitoring – 9 November 2017

Background

Local authorities are required to plan for and respond to a wide range of incidents and emergencies that could affect communities within their geographic areas. These can include the consequences of extreme weather, infectious diseases, transport accidents and terrorism.

Part 1 of the [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#) (CCA 2004) establishes the statutory framework for local civil protection arrangements in the United Kingdom. The CCA 2004, its [associated regulations](#) and [statutory guidance](#) apply to all organisations it designates as Category 1 or 2 responders.

Southampton City Council is designated a Category 1 responder, required to comply with the full set of civil protection duties illustrated at Figure 1 below.

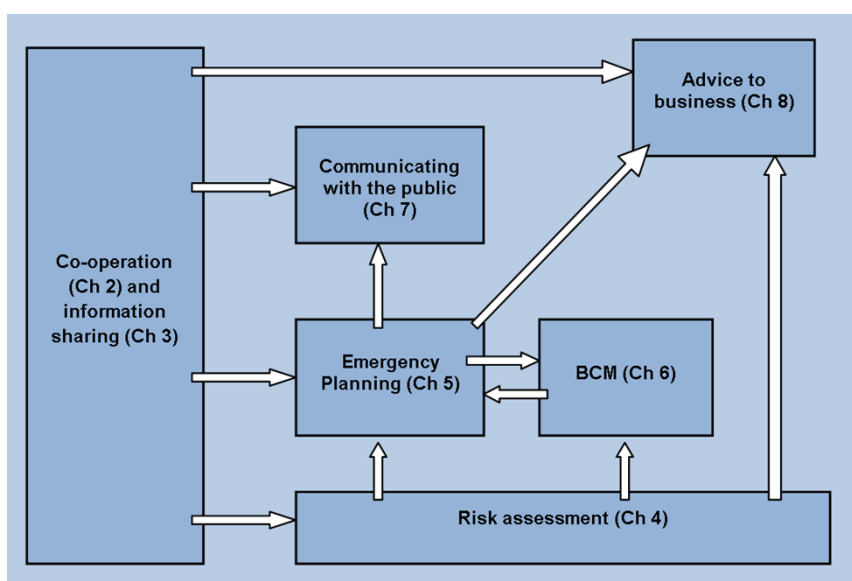


Figure 1. The seven civil protection duties under the CCA 2004 and CCA Regulations 2005
([Cabinet Office, 2006](#) Chapter 1, p.11)

Southampton City Council is also required to comply with the requirements of related emergency planning legislation: the [Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations \(COMAH\)](#) which apply to major accident hazards at industrial establishments, the [Pipelines Safety Regulations](#) which apply to hazardous pipelines, and the [Radiation \(Emergency Preparedness and Public Information\) Regulations \(REPPiR\)](#) which apply to radiation hazards.

Risk in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Southampton City Council and partner agencies within Hampshire and Isle of Wight work together to assess risks that could affect local communities. The [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Risk Register](#) (Hampshire and Isle of Wight LRF, 2016a) contains 80 hazards and threats that have been assessed using the statutory risk assessment process. The top 5 (Very High) risks in our area are: toxic chemical release; electricity network failure; severe space weather; influenza type pandemic and flooding. More details are contained within the [Community Risk Register information booklet](#). Major fires are assessed as a medium risk (HL07, below).

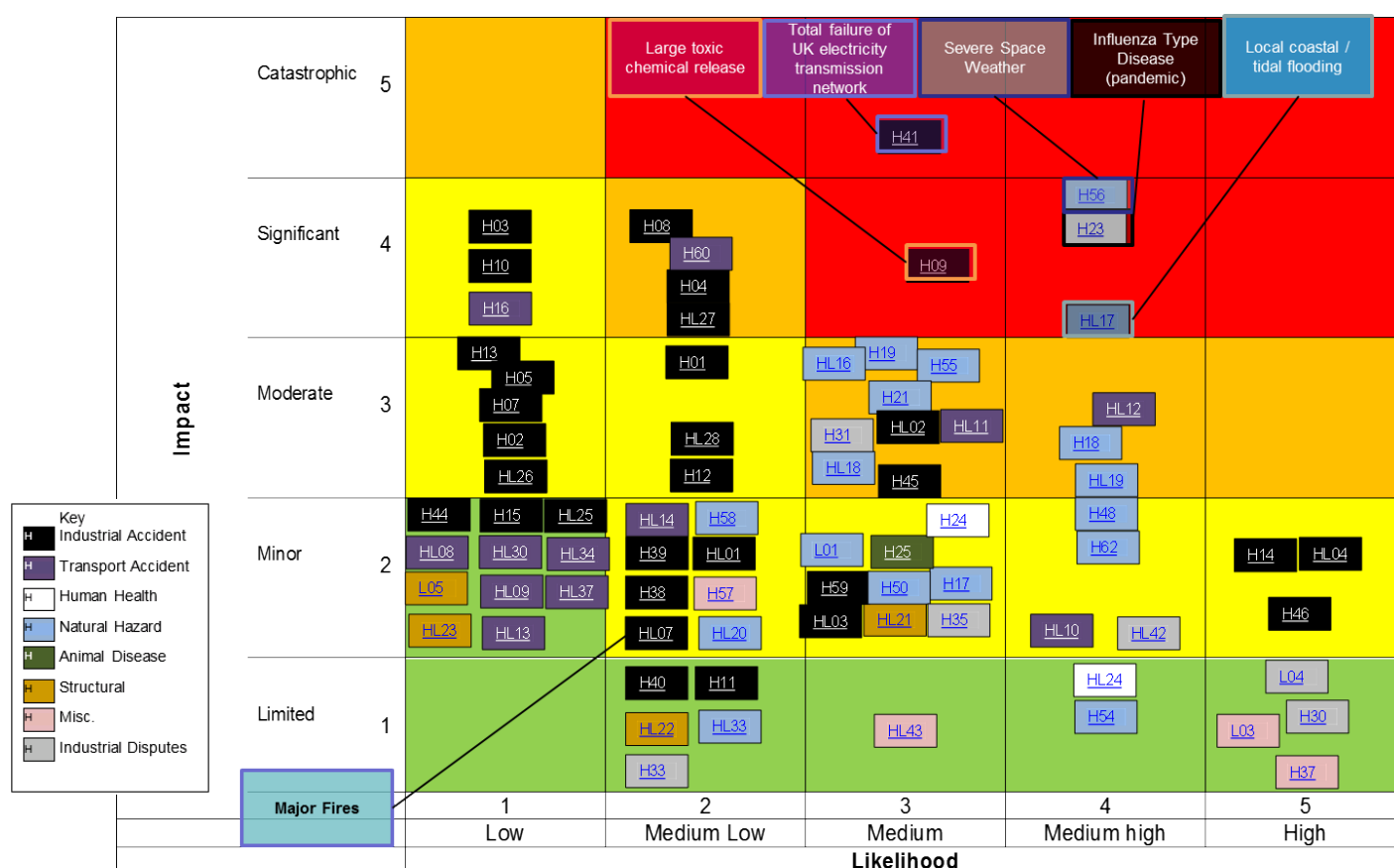


Figure 2. Hampshire and Isle of Wight CRR Risk Matrix

Emergency Planning for Major Fires

Southampton City Council and local partner agencies would use their well-tested generic emergency plan – the Emergency Response Arrangements – in response to a major fire.

This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of each responder and the emergency response structures and procedures that would be used to manage significant emergencies.

Southampton City Council's generic emergency plan, the [Major Incident Plan](#), would be activated to direct the Council's response to a major fire affecting High Rise accommodation in Southampton.

Despite the 'medium' risk rating (which would not normally warrant development of specific planning arrangements), our Major Incident Plan is supported by a specific document (the High Rise Block Emergency Profile) containing detailed information relating to the 20 high rise blocks of flats in the City. This includes risk information, alert and activation procedures, immediate evacuation and shelter contingencies for each block and emergency contact details. This document is shared with key internal contacts as well as the Fire Service. The document was last updated in April 2017 and is next due for review in April 2019.

Emergency plan training, exercising and testing

The CCA Regulations 2005 require that emergency plans contain provision for training to ensure the plan is effective (Regulation 25[b]). Training participants should understand the objectives of the plan and their part in delivering them and should receive such training before the plan is validated during exercise or response.

The CCA Regulations 2005 also require that emergency plans include provision for carrying out exercises for the purpose of ensuring the plan is effective (Regulation 25[a]). This can be undertaken by single agencies, though an emphasis is placed on multi-agency exercising in order to maximise cost effectiveness, test information sharing and cooperation procedures, and strengthen partnership working.

Lessons identified through the exercise, or in a real response, should be captured and used to review the emergency plan, and revise it if necessary.

Multi-agency Emergency Response Arrangements and SCC Major Incident Plan training is held regularly throughout the year and all key Southampton City Council response staff have received this training within the last year.

Successful exercising of the Emergency Response Arrangements (ERA) and Major Incident Plan (MIP) has taken place as follows:

Exercise	Date	Main Scenario	ERA	MIP
HERMES	19/10/2017	Military aircraft accident affecting transport networks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DIESEL	25/05/2017	Toxic Chemical Release (Fawley)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ACESO	01/12/2016	Pandemic Flu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ALDEX	07/11/2016	Incident at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Aldermaston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
GOLDEN FOX	13/10/2016	Off-site nuclear emergency at visiting nuclear submarine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
APOSTELLO	11/07/2016	Emergency on large passenger vessel in Southampton Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ECC EX	08/06/2016	Major fire at commercial premises		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
POLEMOS	07/06/2016	Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FOXWATER	12/01/2015	Off-site nuclear emergency at visiting nuclear submarine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Table 1. Recent Emergency Response Arrangements (ERA) and Major Incident Plan (MIP) exercising

In Exercise HERMES (19/10/2017) exercise play included the response to a large fire at Redbridge Tower concurrent with the main scenario (a major incident in the North of Hampshire). Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service were able to successfully respond to this inject, being able to resource the pre-determined attendance (8 pumps, increased from 5 for all Hampshire high rise blocks following the Grenfell Tower incident) in addition to a significant response and resource deployment elsewhere in Hampshire. This response would have been supported by Southampton City Council using the Major Incident Plan and Emergency Profile to support evacuated residents with short term shelter and longer term recovery.

In addition to the exercises outlined above, Southampton City Council's Major Incident Plan has been tested during the real-life responses to many incidents (49 this financial year to 20 October), which tend to consist primarily adverse weather/flooding and fires.

Recent significant incidents have included the responses to

- Storm Brian (October 2017),
- support to a Southampton school in receipt of a malicious bomb threat (October 2017),
- the national Critical Threat Level increase following terrorism incidents (May 2017 and September 2017),
- a pollution incident with vessel sunk in Southampton Water (July 2017)
- the post-Grenfell Tower local response (June 2017 onwards)
- a large fire at a commercial property in Empress Rd – JJ Autos (April 2017),
- a fire at Redbridge Tower (April 2017)
- police incidents requiring evacuation (March 2017, August 2016)
- a large fire at Bitterne Rd West - the 'Fireworks Factory' (May 2016)
- snow, flooding and adverse weather (January 2016)

The number and type of recent SCC incidents are shown in figures 3 and 4, below.

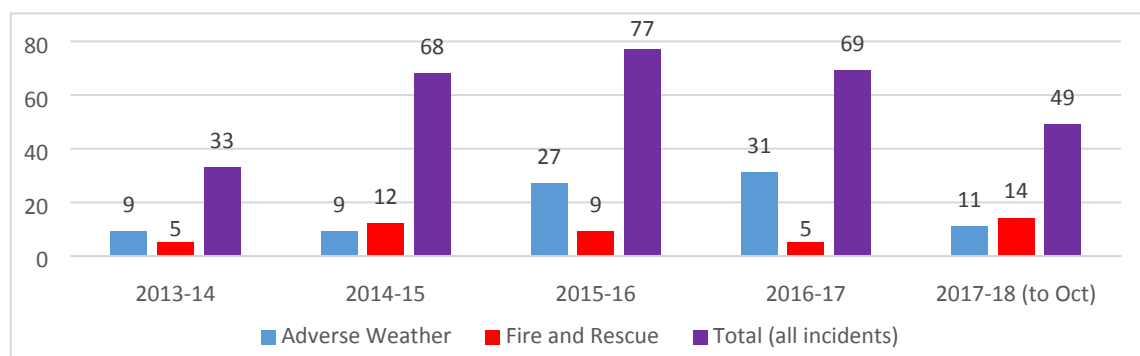


Figure 3. SCC incident numbers 1 April 2013 to 20 October 2017

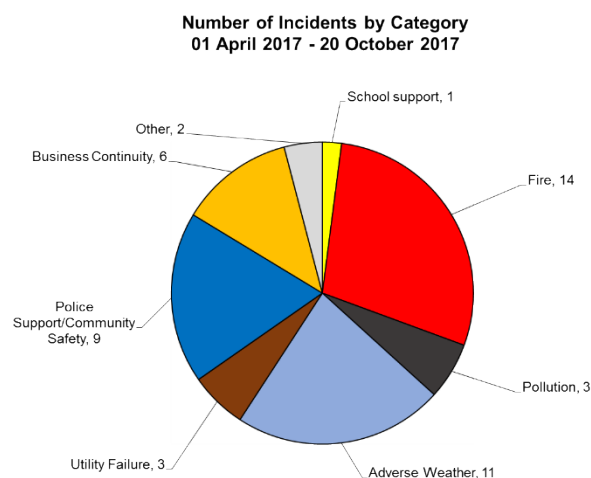


Figure 4. SCC incident types 1 April 2017 to 20 October 2017