

Northamptonshire **Prepared**



Northamptonshire
Local Resilience Forum

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



CONTENTS

Northamptonshire **Prepared**



FOREWORD	3
THE PARTNERSHIP	4
COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER	5
WORKSTREAMS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE LRF	6
BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE	7 - 9
INCIDENTS	10 - 12
SILVERSTONE BRITISH GRAND PRIX	13
MULTI AGENCY EXERCISES	14 - 16
NATIONAL PREPARE CAMPAIGN	17
NORTHANTS PREPARED CONFERENCE	18 - 19
LOOKING AHEAD - EXERCISE SILVER SIREN	20



FOREWORD

Emergencies of any nature cause disruption to people, business and communities. It is the duty of emergency services, local authorities, health bodies and partners to prepare, respond to and recover from major emergencies of any nature.

The Northamptonshire Resilience Forum (NLRF), also known as *Northamptonshire Prepared*, brings together all Category 1 and 2 Responders, along with voluntary and community sector organisations. Its mission is to safeguard residents, communities, and the county's natural environment from the impacts of emergencies and major incidents.



It is with great pleasure that as Chair of the LRF I present to you the first Annual Report for 2024 which acknowledges the hard work, significant improvements and the achievements of the partnership over the past twelve months. Whilst we have had a very busy year in terms of incident responses, we have also moved along the excellent work of the partners in the ways we have organised ourselves, built relationships and a strong foundation for future growth. We have responded to a number of live incidents, continued to develop our strong relationships with partners in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and have engaged in large scale multi-agency exercises. We have put in place strong governance structures and processes to allow us to meet and exceed standards, and embedded new ways of working focused on collaboration, learning and building resilience.

The review and publication of our Community Risk Register has allowed us to identify what really matters to the people of Northamptonshire and to empower our communities and partners to be prepared and respond.

I want to thank all colleagues within the Northamptonshire Resilience Forum, the sub-group teams and the Secretariat for their continued hard work and commitment. 2025 will bring its own challenges and opportunities and we are in a great position to make the best of them, for the benefit of our residents, businesses and environment.

Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum Chair Ashley Tuckley
Deputy Chief Constable - Northamptonshire Police

THE PARTNERSHIP

Northamptonshire Prepared is the county’s local resilience forum (LRF), a multi-agency partnership, working to identify, plan and prepare for major civil emergencies, to ensure the region is better prepared to cope with potential risks and able to recover following a major incident. The Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) provides coordination between responders across the county in the event of an emergency. The LRF does not directly respond to emergencies; rather, it coordinates the efforts of its partners, ensuring that emergency responders and other agencies work together effectively to manage incidents on the ground.

The LRF assesses the risks that might affect Northamptonshire, puts plans in place to address various civil emergencies, delivers training and carries out exercises to test the plans, ensures staff in all organisations are adequately trained, communicated to, and provides advice, information and assistance to the public, businesses and voluntary organisations.

The LRF has representation from Police, Fire, Ambulance, Military, NHS, Local Authorities, Environment Agency and Utilities with support from a Government Liaison Officer (from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).



CATEGORY ONE RESPONDERS



CATEGORY TWO RESPONDERS (SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS)



COOPERATING BODIES



COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER

The Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum has a duty under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) to produce a Community Risk Register (CRR). This document highlights risks that have the highest likelihood and potential to have significant impact to local communities resulting in wide scale disruption.

These risks fall under a few categories:

- Malicious attacks
- Fraud and cybercrime
- Serious organised crime
- Accidents and systems failures
- Natural and environmental disasters
- Human and animal health
- Social disruption

As a partnership, the Local Resilience Forum considers all risks by looking at the likelihood of them occurring and considering the potential impacts, to our health (casualties, fatalities and psychological effects), the local economy, the local environment and people's lives (evacuation, shelter, utilities).



WORKSTREAMS

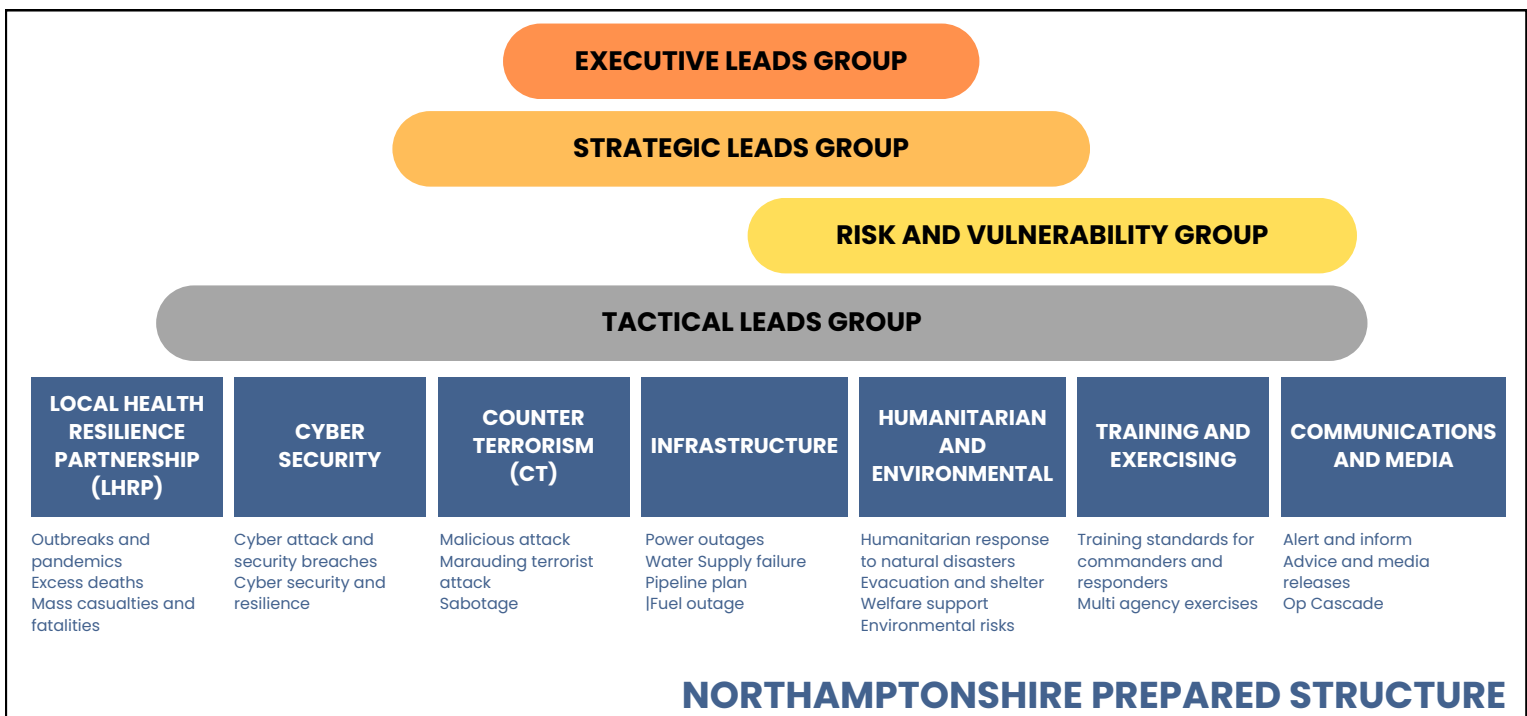
THE STRUCTURE OF THE LRF

The partnership forum saw a complete restructure this year, aimed at giving each layer of operations the right degree of governance and accountability.

The direction of travel and strategy of the forum is set by an Executive Group, made up of the Chief Executive Officers of the various partner agencies, with a Strategic Leads Group providing the oversight of the work carried out across a number of multi-agency groups. The tactical level sees a number of multi-agency and multi-disciplinary groups which develop work and make recommendations to the Strategic Leads Group.

The Tactical Groups mirror the main areas of activity and risks identified for Northamptonshire, and allow specialist resources to bring together their expertise to develop the relevant response plans to mitigate these risks.

The LRF Secretariat creates the capacity needed to coordinate the activity of the groups, hold the working groups accountable against a work plan and ensure there is clear communication between all parties, as well as an accurate audit trail of work and decisions. We were able to recruit to posts in the Secretariat, which has made a real difference to the pace of change.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The past year has been a significant period of progress and achievement for our teams. Focused on enhancing community resilience and preparedness, we are proud to share the milestones we've reached together with our partners and communities.

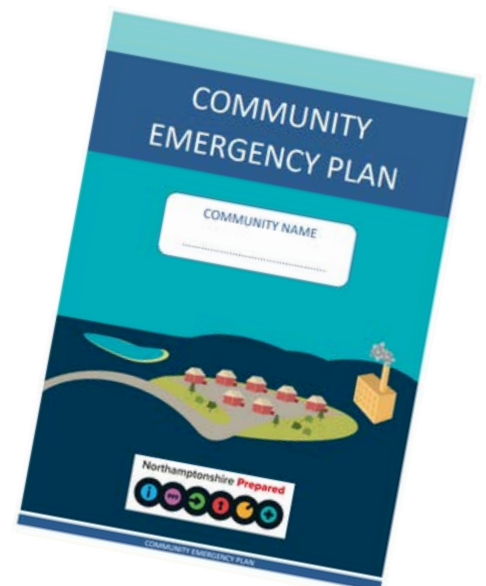


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Building trust and awareness is at the heart of emergency preparedness. This year, several engagement events took place across the community, bringing important information and resources directly to residents. These events provided opportunities to share practical advice, answer questions and gather input on local emergency concerns, ensuring our strategies are informed by those we serve.

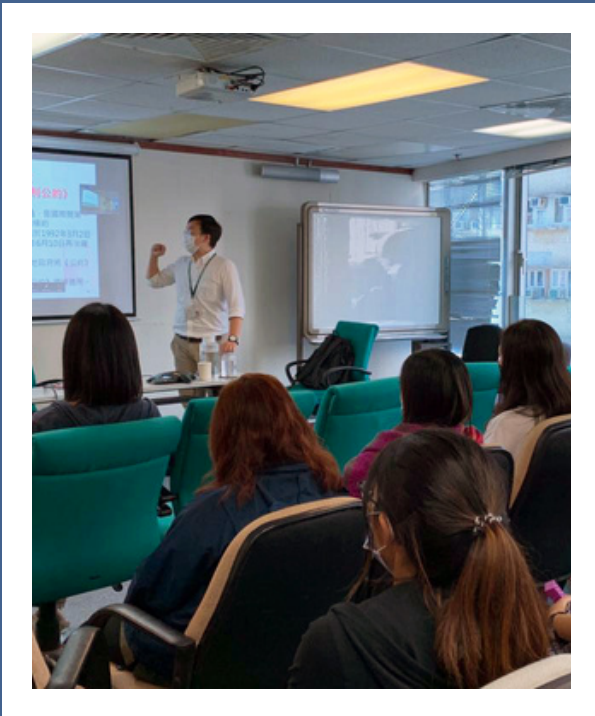
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN TEMPLATES

To empower neighbourhoods and community groups, we have developed user-friendly Community Emergency Plan templates. These templates provide step-by-step guidance for communities to prepare for potential emergencies, from identifying local risks to outlining roles and responsibilities during a crisis. This initiative has been well-received and has equipped groups to take proactive steps in safeguarding their neighbourhood areas.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND TABLETOP EXERCISES

We rely heavily on volunteers in emergencies, especially when we need to open triage and reception centres to receive and support people displaced due to an emergency, so we have developed and delivered training sessions focused on the essential skills to manage a reception centre. The training culminated in a tabletop exercise, simulating a real-life emergency scenario. Volunteers participated, testing their plans in a safe and supportive environment while identifying areas for improvement.



PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC SERVICES COURSE

The local authority worked with Moulton College's Public Services course, to introduce local authority emergency planning into their curriculum. This initiative bridges education and practice by incorporating real-world emergency planning concepts into lectures. Students gain valuable insights into the complexities of emergency response and resilience planning, preparing the next generation of professionals for this vital field. The students also were involved in a live multi-agency exercise (Exercise Study which took place on the 6 November) which saw students being involved in a major emergency and acting as survivors in a Survivor Reception Centre.

SEPTEMBER IS PREPAREDNESS MONTH

This September, West Northants Council, as well as Northamptonshire Police, Northants Fire, Health colleagues and the voluntary and community sector were proud to participate in #30Days30WaysUK, a national campaign dedicated to promoting preparedness and resilience. As part of Preparedness Month, the initiative encouraged individuals, families, and organisations to take simple, practical steps each day to enhance their readiness for emergencies.

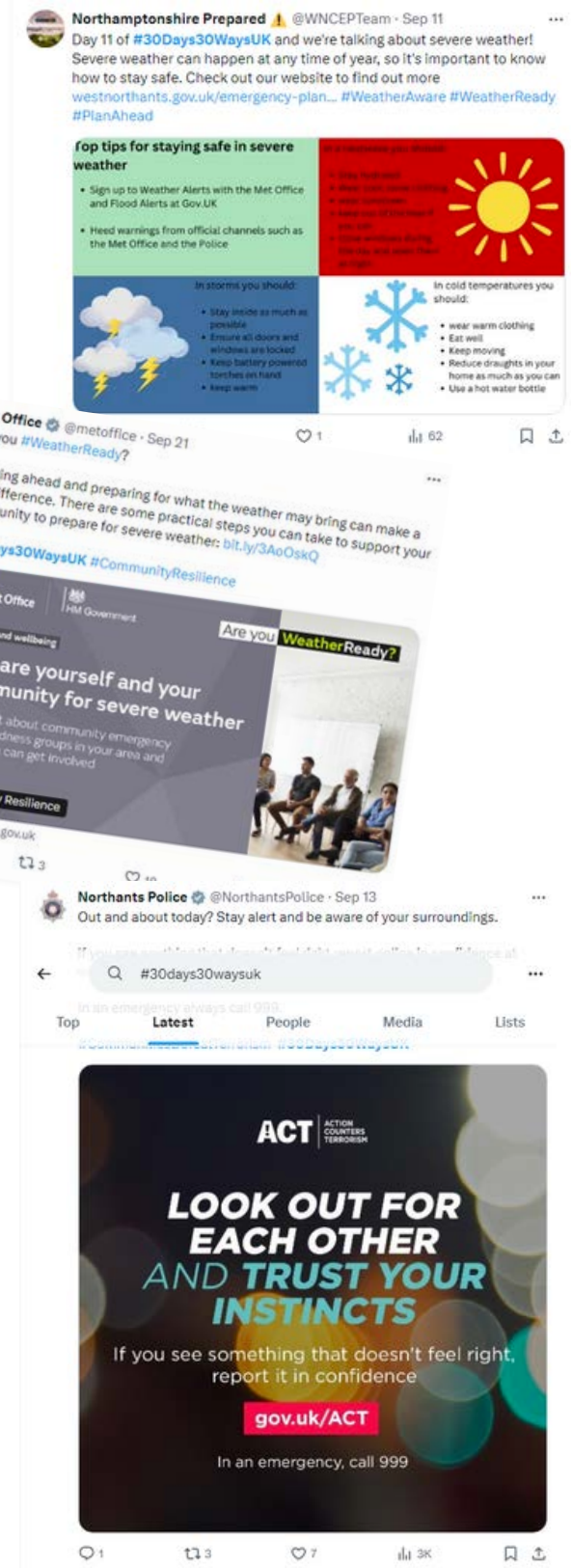
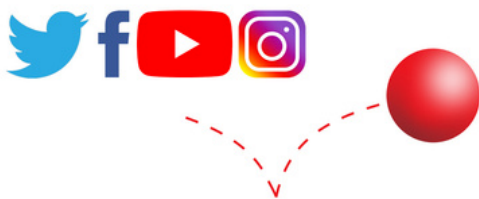
The #30Days30WaysUK campaign is a creative and interactive way to raise awareness about emergency preparedness.

Each day throughout September, participants are challenged with a new task or topic, ranging from building an emergency kit to learning about specific risks like flooding, power outages, or severe weather.

The campaign leverages social media to share tips, resources, and real-life stories, making resilience education accessible and engaging.

This campaign started 10 years ago in Northamptonshire!

#30days30ways UK



MULTI-AGENCY INCIDENTS OF 2024

JAN

On the 2nd of January 2024, **Storm Henk** brought damaging winds and heavy rain to southern and central parts of England and Wales on 2 January 2024. Heavy rain from storm Henk contributed to significant flooding problems, following the wet weather during autumn and December 2023, when some areas of England received more than 150% of the average for the period. Storm Henk caused power outages, severe disruption to road and rail transport and flooding problems. Flooding at Billing Aquadrome Park caused the site to be evacuated. Only weeks later, a second wave of heavy rain brought further flooding to the county, with response from all partner agencies being needed to keep communities and assets safe. Water rescue operations were needed and 29 adults and two children, along with a number of pets, have been evacuated as part of the rescue operations following the flooding of the site.



JUL

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service was called to reports of a **fire at a six-storey building** in Kettering. Crews were immediately dispatched to the incident and discovered smoke issuing from the roof space of the building, which was under construction. The Fire Service requested the attendance of Northamptonshire Police to assist in traffic management, and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) were also called to the scene.



SEP

Firefighters from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have continued their work at the River Nene in Northampton to **help boats in difficulty**. Crews were first called to South Bridge after reports that the river had burst its banks. On arrival, firefighters found that the river had breached the side of the bank and liaised with boat owners to offer safety advice.



SEP

Firefighter crews were first called to South Bridge after reports that the river Nene had exceeded its channel capacity and was flowing into the flood plain on the 23rd of September 2024.

The Billing Aquadrome Park had to be evacuated due to risk to people and property. Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Search and Rescue supported the park’s management with the full evacuation of the site. Northamptonshire Search and Rescue fielded Specialist Water Rescue Teams in full PPE and used 4x4 vehicles. Around 28 people and 5 pets stayed at the reception centre overnight and were provided with emergency bedding, toiletries and hot food and drink and supported by community volunteers from the British Red Cross and Re:Act and WNC staff. A further 21 people and their pets left the centre having made arrangements to stay with family and friends. West Northamptonshire Council is assessing everyone remaining at the site for temporary accommodation. Yarwell Mill Country Park was also evacuated, with partner agencies working together to support residents during evacuation and also during the safe re-opening of the site and return of residents.



SEP

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue were called to help **rescue two people and two dogs** who were in difficulty at Islip Mill on 27 September. Crews were called just before 10am and on arrival found a narrowboat stuck on the mooring. Firefighters, including Swiftwater Rescue Technicians.



OCT

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service was called shortly after midnight on October 18 to reports of a **fire at an industrial premises** on Geddington Road in Corby.



OCT

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service was called to reports of a **fire at the marina** near Victoria Promenade in Northampton, shortly after 5am on Tuesday October 22. On arrival crews discovered a narrow boat that was well alight, and immediately identified nearby boats that the fire could potentially spread to.



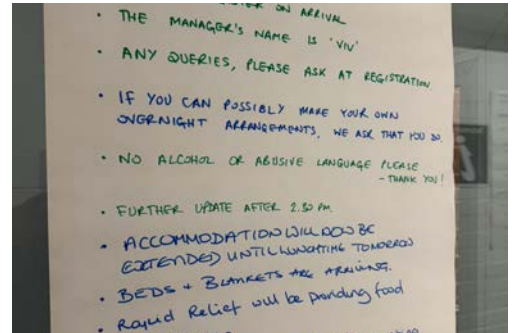
NOV

At the end of November, **Storm Bert** brought a spell of extremely wet and windy weather. The weekend of Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th was exceptionally wet. Around three-quarters of the whole-month average rain fell in a swathe from Gwent to Wiltshire to Northamptonshire. Storm Bert also brought some very strong winds. On 23 November the UK recorded its wettest calendar day – as an average across the whole country – since 3 October 2020.

At Billing Aquadrome, a severe flood warning was issued due to the River Nene's rising levels, leading to the evacuation of around 2,000 units (caravans). Residents were relocated to a reception centre at Lings Forum Leisure Centre, where West Northamptonshire Council provided emergency bedding, food, and support. 117 individuals were found temporary alternative accommodation from West Northants Council.

Flooding and strong winds also caused disruption to road and rail transport and Northampton railway station was closed for a number of days.

The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service played a pivotal role, deploying rescue teams with support from the voluntary sector to assist with evacuations and ensuring the safety of vulnerable individuals. Regular meetings enabled a coordinated response with agencies. Despite a brief spell of dry weather, further rain was forecasted, keeping flood warnings in place and extending vigilance of partners.



The flows through Northampton in November were the highest on record! The flow was 180 tonnes of water per second!

SILVERSTONE 2024

Keeping hundreds of thousands of race fans safe at British Grand Prix

The British Grand Prix at Silverstone is a highlight of the motorsport calendar, drawing over 160,000 attendees on race day and significantly increasing the local population with visitors camping or staying in nearby accommodations. This influx requires meticulous planning and coordination, spearheaded by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

The LRF, comprising emergency services, local authorities, health providers, and other key agencies, plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and smooth operation of the four-day event.

Each year, the LRF steps up to manage the extraordinary demands of the British Grand Prix, ensuring a seamless experience for fans while safeguarding the community. Their collaborative efforts exemplify the importance of multi-agency coordination in hosting world-class events.

Through careful planning and teamwork, the LRF helps maintain Silverstone's reputation as a premier venue for motorsport while contributing to the success of one of the UK's largest sporting spectacles.



MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISES

EXERCISE CALLICARPA

On 27 March 2024, emergency services from Northamptonshire and surrounding counties participated in Exercise Callicarpa, a large-scale live simulation designed to test and enhance their joint response to a terrorist and chemical attack. The exercise, held at the Silverstone circuit, marked one of the most significant multi-agency training events in recent years.

The first phase of the exercise replicated a marauding terrorist attack, requiring law enforcement to neutralize threats while paramedics and firefighters provided emergency care and ensured public safety.

Subsequent phases involved responding to a chemical attack, simulating the decontamination of victims and management of hazardous materials.

Participants included fire, police, and ambulance services, working together to refine their roles and responsibilities under high-pressure conditions. Observers noted the importance of seamless communication and rapid decision-making during such incidents.

Exercise Callicarpa provided a realistic environment for responders to identify strengths and areas for improvement in their protocols. Insights gained will be used to update emergency plans, ensuring a swift and coordinated response to real-world incidents.

This exercise underscores the commitment of emergency services to safeguarding the public through rigorous training and collaboration. Such initiatives are crucial for enhancing resilience against evolving threats.



EXERCISE STUDY

On 6 November 2024, emergency response teams conducted a simulated live exercise designed to test and enhance their capabilities in managing a major incident. The scenario, initiated at 0800 hours, involved a staged collision between a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) and a college school bus carrying approximately 60 students aged 15-17.

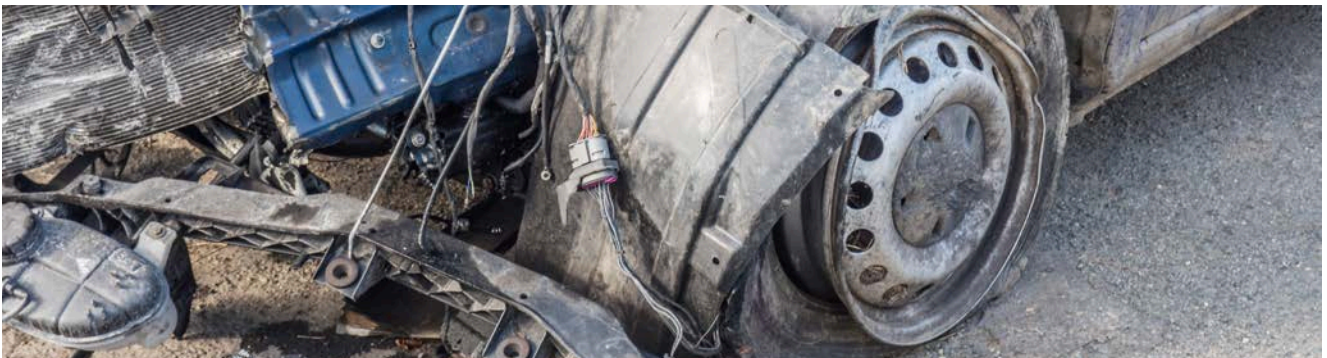


The exercise simulated real-life conditions, including fatalities and injuries of varying severity among the bus passengers. First responders, including fire crews, paramedics, police, and the air ambulance service, were deployed to the scene to conduct triage, provide immediate medical assistance, and transport the critically injured to hospitals.

The exercise aimed to ensure a seamless multi-agency response to a large-scale incident. It also provided an opportunity to test the coordination between emergency services, refine processes, and identify areas for improvement in real-time crisis management.

This simulated event highlighted the critical importance of rapid response, structured survivor care, and thorough documentation. The insights gained will enhance preparedness for real-life emergencies, ensuring a more effective response to future incidents.

Such exercises play a vital role in safeguarding communities and improving resilience in the face of potential disasters.



EXERCISE CALAMITAS

Northamptonshire Integrated Care System’s Exercise Calamitas was held across several sessions during March 2024, culminating in a workshop session on 22nd March 2024. Exercise Calamitas was a tabletop exercise designed to test the response of Northamptonshire Health and Care participants in the event of a Mass Casualty incident, focusing on the discharge element of the response.

This provided an opportunity for system participation in short, less disruptive sessions, to test capacity management and discharge arrangements in an extreme situation, and highlighted that during a mass casualty situation the flow of patients through the hospital and community is of equal importance to the Emergency Department ‘front door’ response.

Participation in exercises such as this allows healthcare colleagues to learn in a challenging but safe environment and think differently. Exercise Calamitas has highlighted the wide ranging and cascading impacts of a mass casualty incident on the Northamptonshire healthcare system. There are some useful lessons identified from this exercise which will support the resulting action plans to improve our planning and keep Northamptonshire’s patients safe. The emergency plans that are developed should acknowledge all risks and have mitigations in place to reduce the potential for harm, and ensuring the Health and Care response is widely understood across the system and our LRF partners.



HOW WOULD YOU

PREPARE

FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Emergencies such as flooding, fires and power cuts can affect us all. There are simple and effective steps you can take to be more prepared.

In a newly launched [website](#), the government is encouraging people to think about what they would do if they and those around them were exposed to risks ranging from floods to fires to power cuts.

The [website](#) provides simple and effective steps people can take to be more prepared, at gov.uk/prepare.

Taking action in advance will make it easier to manage an emergency if it does happen. The site is designed for residents in England. The devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also provide advice for their residents.



Get prepared for emergencies

Find out the simple steps you should take to be more prepared.



Be informed about hazards

Read specific information and advice about a variety of hazards and emergencies – and check the risks where you are.



Get involved in your community

Find out about volunteering and supporting your community.

Five simple things you can do now –

- 1** Find out if you are eligible to sign up to your gas, electricity and water supplier's Priority Service Registers, so companies know that you need additional support.
- 2** Set a reminder in your phone or make a note on your calendar to check your smoke alarm once a month.
- 3** Write down important phone numbers on paper such as the number to report a power cut (105) and the numbers of anyone you might want to contact in an emergency.
- 4** Talk to your children about how and when to call 999 and what they should do if there's an emergency, such as a fire at home.
- 5** Check your long term flood risk and sign up for flood and weather warnings.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PREPARED CONFERENCE

BUILDING RESILIENCE TOGETHER

In September, colleagues from the Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) joined resilience professionals from across the region for a dynamic conference focused on Building UK Resilience and Preparedness. The event provided a valuable platform to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and strengthen collaboration in the face of evolving emergencies.

The event began with a compelling discussion led by Kathy Settle and Bruce Mann, who shared insights from their independent review of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, framing the theme of Building UK Resilience and Preparedness.

The conference agenda explored critical aspects of resilience and emergency response, including:

Lessons from Grenfell: An in-depth session from Matt Hogan from London Resilience reflecting on the response and recovery efforts following the Grenfell tragedy, highlighting best practices and areas for improvement to enhance community safety and support.





Personal and Professional Resilience: A presentation by Professor Lucy Easthope on maintaining personal wellbeing and operational effectiveness during high-pressure situations, ensuring our teams remain strong and capable.

Preparedness Month Highlights: Joanne Maddams from West Northants Council Emergency Planning Team celebrated the achievements of September is Preparedness Month, including the success of the #30Days30WaysUK campaign in raising public awareness about emergency readiness.

Attendees from diverse organisations shared innovative approaches to resilience and preparedness, creating opportunities to strengthen partnerships across the public, private, and voluntary sectors.

This conference reinforced the importance of continuous learning and collaboration in building a safer, more resilient Northamptonshire and beyond. By reflecting on past challenges and planning for future risks, we are better equipped to protect and support our communities.

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended and contributed to these essential discussions. Together, we are shaping the future of resilience.

LOOKING FORWARD ...

EXERCISE SILVER SIREN

Preparations are in full swing for Exercise Silver Siren, a major multi-agency exercise scheduled for the week commencing 12 May 2025. This ambitious initiative will see organisations across Northamptonshire collaborate to test their major incident response plans in a comprehensive, real-world scenario.

Organised by the Military and Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF), the exercise will be held in the St James area of Northampton. Unlike tabletop simulations, Silver Siren will be a live exercise, putting plans and procedures into action in a realistic and challenging environment.

Planning for Silver Siren is well underway, with representatives from all participating LRF organisations actively contributing. This inclusive approach ensures that the exercise reflects the complexities of a multi-agency response to a major incident, while also addressing the unique challenges of the Northamptonshire area.

Key Objectives –

Silver Siren aims to achieve the following:

- **Validate Plans:** Confirm the effectiveness of existing major incident plans, identifying areas for improvement.
- **Enhance Competencies:** Provide hands-on training to develop the skills and confidence of staff in executing their emergency roles.
- **Test Established Procedures:** Assess well-established procedures to ensure they function seamlessly under real-world conditions.

Exercise Silver Siren underscores the commitment of Northamptonshire's emergency services and partners to building a resilient and well-prepared community. With careful planning and collaboration, the exercise promises to be a valuable opportunity for all agencies involved to strengthen their readiness for the challenges of real-life emergencies.

Stay tuned for further updates as we approach this pivotal exercise!

For further inquiries, please reach out to:

The Northamptonshire LRF Secretariat

lrf@northants.police.uk

