



# Ashford Community Risk Register

**2022-2025**

**Public Version**



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## **What is the Ashford Community Risk Register (ACRR)?**

The ACRR is Ashford Borough Council's document, which identifies the key risks within our borough that require organisations, communities and the public to prepare for. As such by being aware of these risks, we are able to prepare for them in advance and in doing so help to mitigate against the impacts of an emergency relating to those risks identified.

### **Kent Risks**

For Kent-wide risk, the Kent CRR is stored on the Kent Prepared website at:

<https://www.kentprepared.org.uk/kent-and-medway-community-risk-register>

The [Kent Prepared](#) website and 'What If' pages also contain further information on general preparedness guidance and supporting agency links for emergency response.

### **National Risks**

The [National Risk Register](#) (NRR) captures a range of emergencies that might have a major impact on all aspects of the UK. This document is updated directly by the government and assesses the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different civil emergency risks. This includes naturally and accidentally occurring hazards and malicious threats that may directly affect the UK over the next five years.

The NRR also signposts advice and guidance on what members of the public can do to prepare for these events.

### **Statutory Duties**

Under the [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#) we have a statutory duty to assess the risks within our borough.

The Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Risk Assessment Group manage the overall threat and risk process for the county of Kent with guidance from the National Risk Register. This document then uses the Community Risk Register to allow us to identify which risks lie within our Ashford boundaries.

## **How do we assess risks?**

The register places risks into five categories. These categories are determined by assessing the **likelihood** of a risk occurring and the various **impacts** that the risk would cause.

These categories are:

- Accident and system failure
- Cyber
- Human and animal disease
- Natural hazards
- Societal

## **Likelihood assessment**

The likelihood of a risk occurring is based on historical evidence, subject matter expert opinion and local expertise.

At a Kent-wide level, the KRF constantly carries out a process called 'horizon scanning', in which they monitor various channels to forecast what may occur in the short, medium and long term (e.g. weather forecasting).

## **Impact assessment**

The impact of a risk is also based on historical evidence, subject matter expert opinion and local expertise.

The impact is measured across six areas:

- Human welfare including behaviours
- Essential service deliver including health and social care
- Infrastructure
- Security
- Environmental
- Economic

All risks identified for Ashford are considered as part of our Kent and Local Emergency Plans and procedures.

Training and exercising is then conducted for those higher risk areas to ensure all plans are tested both locally and as part of a multi-agency response.

For all risks listed within this register, a more detailed risk register is held internally identifying full actions, links to plans and areas affected.

Please note that in all major emergencies the operational response is set out in two phases:

#### The Response Phase

The KRF Pan Kent Strategic Response Framework and the ABC Major Emergency plan

#### The Recovery Phase

The KRF Pan Kent Recovery Framework.

The procedures set out in the above documentation govern and direct the response to a major incident or emergency.

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## **Ashford Community Risk Register (ACRR)**

### **VERY HIGH RISK**

These risks are **primary or critical risks requiring immediate attention.**

They may have a high or low likelihood of occurrence, but their potential consequences are such that they must be treated as a high priority.

This may mean that strategies should be developed to reduce or eliminate risks, but also that mitigation in the form of at least (multi-agency) generic planning, exercising and training should be put in place and the risk monitored on a regular frequency.

Consideration should be given to planning being specific to the risk rather than generic.

#### **Accident and system failure**

- Border Closures due to EU Transition, protest, counter terrorism or pandemic
- Loss of the strategic road network - M20 (impact from a border closure)
- Loss of electricity / no power

#### **Human and animal disease**

- Influenza-type pandemic
- Covid-19 pandemic

#### **Natural hazards**

- Fluvial (river) flooding
- Reservoir overtopping (Aldington and Hothfield)

## **HIGH RISK**

These risks are **significant**.

They may have a high or low likelihood of occurrence, but their potential consequences are sufficiently serious to warrant appropriate consideration after those risks classed as 'very high'.

Consideration should be given to the development of strategies to reduce or eliminate the risks, but also mitigation in the form of at least (multi- agency) generic planning, exercising and training should be put in place and the risk monitored on a regular frequency.

### **Accident and system failure**

- Toxic Chemical Release (COMAH sites)
- Rail Incident – Channel Tunnel or rail network
- Prolonged disruption to a border control location (affecting Sevington)
- M20 / Major Trunk road accident

### **Human and animal disease**

- Food supply contamination
- Infectious diseases
- Outbreak of plant disease
- Animal disease (Avian Flu)

### **Natural hazards**

- Fluvial Flooding
- Surface water flooding
- Prolonged cold weather and snow
- Prolonged hot weather and heatwaves

### **Societal**

- Constraint on fuel supply / fuel disruption

## **MEDIUM RISK**

These risks are **less significant** but may cause upset and inconvenience in the short term.

These risks should be monitored to ensure that they are being appropriately managed, and consideration given to their being managed under generic emergency planning arrangements.

### **Accident and system failure**

- Incidents in complex large venues (such as Ashford Designer Outlet)
- Localised fire or explosion to distribution site or tank storage
- Gas pipeline explosion / loss of gas supply
- Radioactive substance release (airborne from Dungeness)
- Aviation incident
- Building collapse / dangerous structures
- Bridge collapse or closure

### **Human and animal disease**

- Wildfires (such as heathland)
- Non-zoonotic animal disease

### **Natural hazards**

- Drought
- Storms and gales
- Land movement
- Volcanic disruption / ash clouds leading to poor air quality
- Heatwave

### **Societal**

- Industrial action by critical workers
- Public disorder

### **Cyber**

- Cyber-attack – government system, banking and retail

## LOW RISK

These risks are both **unlikely to occur and not significant** in their impact.

They should be managed using normal or generic planning arrangements and require minimal monitoring and control unless subsequent risk assessments show a substantial change, prompting a move to another risk category.

### **Accident and system failure**

- Loss of telecommunications
- Loss of water supply

### **Societal**

- Influx of British Nationals