

Explanation of Categories of Impact

A generic framework is provided in the national guidance, [Emergency Preparedness](#), for assessing the local impacts of events in a consistent way across England and Wales by consideration of the impact on 4 categories – health, community, economy and the environment.

| Category | Explanation |
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| Health | Encompassing direct health impacts (numbers of people affected, fatalities, human illness or injury, health damage) and indirect health impacts that arise because of strain on the health service. |
| Social | Encompassing the social consequences of an event, including availability of social welfare provision; disruption of facilities for transport; damage to property; disruption of a supply of money, food, water, energy or fuel; disruption of an electronic or other system of communication; homelessness, evacuation and avoidance behaviour; and public disorder due to anger, fear and/or lack of trust in the authorities. |
| Economic | Encompassing the net economic cost, including both direct (e.g. loss of goods, buildings infrastructure) and indirect (e.g. loss of business, increased demand for public services) costs. |
| Environment | Encompassing contamination or pollution of land, water or air with harmful biological/chemical/radioactive matter or oil, flooding, or disruption or destruction of plant or animal life. |

Impact Scoring Categories

| Level | Descriptor | Categories of impact | Description of impact |
|-------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Insignificant | Health | Insignificant number of injuries or impact on health |
| | | Social | Insignificant number of persons displaced and insignificant personal support required Insignificant disruption to community services, including transport services and infrastructure |
| | | Economic | Insignificant impact on local economy |
| | | Environment | Insignificant impact on environment |
| 2 | Minor | Health | Small number of people affected, no fatalities, and small number of minor injuries with first aid treatment |
| | | Social | Minor damage to properties Minor displacement of a small number of people for < 24 hours and minor personal support required Minor localised disruption to community services or infrastructure < 24 hours |
| | | Economic | Negligible impact on local economy and cost easily absorbed |
| | | Environment | Minor impact on environment with no lasting effects |
| 3 | Moderate | Health | Sufficient number of fatalities with some casualties requiring hospitalisation and medical treatment and activation of MAJAX, the automated intelligent alert notification system, procedures in one or more hospitals |
| | | Social | Damage that is confined to a specific location, or to a number of locations, but requires additional resources; Localised displacement of >100 people for 1–3 days; Localised disruption to infrastructure and community services |
| | | Economic | Limited impact on local economy with some short-term loss of production, with possible additional clean-up costs |
| | | Environment | Limited impact on environment with short-term or long-term effects |

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| 4 | Significant | Health | Significant number of people in affected area impacted with multiple fatalities, multiple serious or extensive injuries, significant hospitalisation and activation of MAJAX procedures across a number of hospitals |
| | | Social | Significant damage that requires support for local responders with external resources 100 to 500 people in danger and displaced for longer than 1 week. Local responders require external resources to deliver personal support Significant impact on and possible breakdown of delivery of some local community services |
| | | Economic | Significant impact on local economy with medium-term loss of production |
| | | Environment | Significant impact on environment with medium- to long-term effects |
| 5 | Catastrophic | Health | Very large numbers of people in affected area(s) impacted with significant numbers of fatalities, large number of people requiring hospitalisation with serious injuries with longer-term effects |
| | | Social | Extensive damage to properties and built environment in affected area requiring major demolition General and widespread displacement of more than 500 people for prolonged duration and extensive personal support required Serious damage to infrastructure causing significant disruption to, or loss of, key services for prolonged period. Community unable to function without significant support |
| | | Economic | Serious impact on local and regional economy with some long-term, potentially permanent, loss of production with some structural change Extensive clean-up and recovery costs |
| | | Environment | Serious long-term impact on environment and/or permanent damage |