

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER



About the Local Resilience Forum

The North Yorkshire Local Resilience forum (NYLRF) is a partnership that brings together a range of organisations to prepare for, respond to and recover from any major emergency in North Yorkshire. It includes local Emergency Service Responders (Police, Fire, Ambulance), local authorities, businesses and voluntary organisations such as Community First Yorkshire, York CVS and Ready For Anything.

You can find out more about the Local Resilience Forum and see a full list of our partners online [by visiting our website](#).

Are you ready for an emergency situation?

Some emergencies require evacuation and some require you to stay in and shelter and wait for updates on the radio or online.

This booklet highlights risks that could have an impact to our local communities. Inclusion of these risks does not mean that they will definitely occur, and the Local Resilience Forum has plans in place to respond if needed. We want to help you be ready for an emergency in your home, business or community.



What we do



PREPARE

- We develop emergency plans and procedures to respond to risks
- We have expert staff and volunteers on hand to help
- We understand the potential impact of each risk



RESPOND

- We work together to react in the event of an incident
- We warn and inform the public
- We focus on public safety, evacuation and shelter and limit the spread of an incident



RECOVER

- Following an incident we manage welfare arrangements
- Re-house people
- Provide assistance to those in need and plan for long-term recovery



Be ready in North Yorkshire

The North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF) has a plan for a variety of risks including:

- Pandemic influenza
- Flooding
- Adverse/severe weather
- Marine pollution
- Disruption to or failure of the electrical network
- Food supply contamination
- Air quality
- Land movement
- Terrorism
- Cyber security

You can find a full assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of these risks on our website.

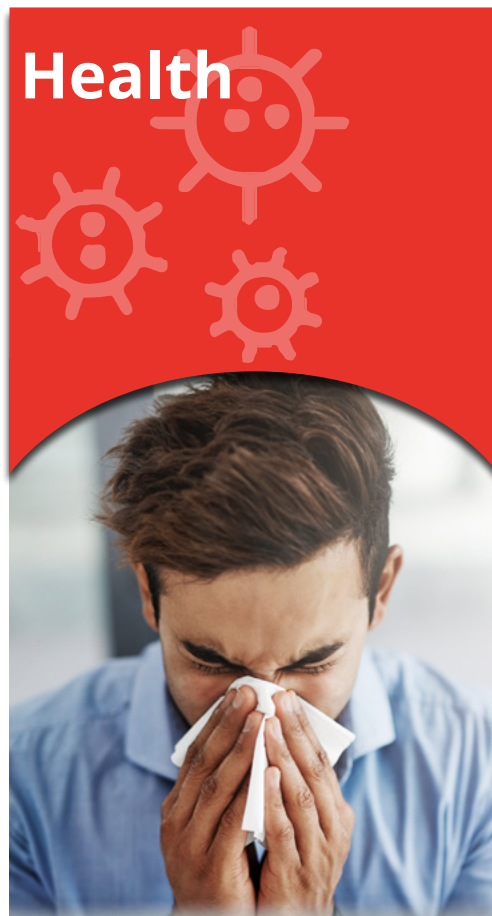
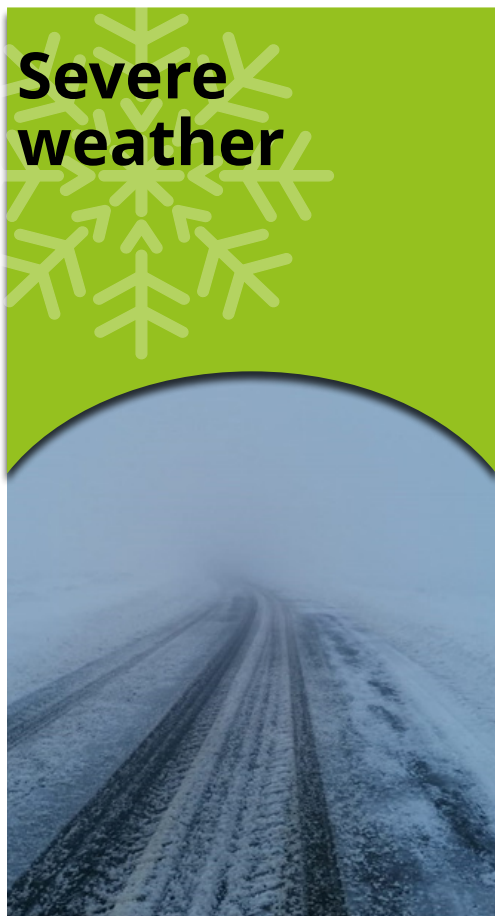
The Government also produces a National Risk Register of risks that may directly affect the UK. You can view this by visiting www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2025



Emergencies are unlikely but to help you be ready, we've categorised the risks that we think are most likely to affect our communities:

- **Severe weather**
- **Health**
- **Utilities disruption**
- **Cyber attack**

These risks may not necessarily happen, and you may not be affected if they do, but you should be aware of them. This community risk register focuses on these four areas but there are many other risks that we face. Further information on other risks can be found on the [North Yorkshire Council website](#)



Severe weather



York and North Yorkshire communities experience a variety of different weather systems. There is a chance that we'll experience snow, ice, heatwaves and heavy rainfall that can cause flooding. We monitor the impact of severe weather and what you can do to be ready for it.

Flooding

This is the most common and widespread natural disaster in the UK. The highest flooding risk is surface water flooding, where drainage systems are unable to cope with the volume of rainfall.

What could happen?

- Damage to homes, personal property and infrastructure
- Disruption to utilities such as gas, electric and water supply
- You may need to leave your home for a period of time

What can you do?

- Register for flood warning alerts by visiting www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- Move valuable and irreplaceable items to upper floors during a flood risk where possible
- Plan where you can go if you need to evacuate and how you will get there
- Arrange who can look after your pets
- Buy flood barriers such as sandbags, aqua sacs and boards in advance
- Identify neighbours who may need assistance or can provide assistance to you in case of evacuation
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if possible
- Put together an emergency grab bag in case of emergency including medication ([see page 19](#))
- Do not drive, cycle or walk through flood water

What are we doing?

- Working with local flood groups such as Tadcaster, Malton and Scarborough, and emergency services, local authorities and other agencies to develop flood response plans
- Investigating the causes of significant flooding across the country
- Talking to housing developers to incorporate flood protection in new developments
- Developing ways to alert the public as soon as possible when there is a significant flood risk

Want to know more?

Check your flood risk, sign up to flood warnings and find out more about how to prepare for a flood by visiting the www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather.



Living in a flood risk area

Jan has lived in Brompton for 40 years in a flood risk area.

She said:

'We understood the risk when we moved in and made sure we arranged the right insurance to protect us. We've experienced one bad flooding that was around two foot deep in the house and took us four months to get back to normal.

'We're definitely more prepared from this, with hard flooring throughout the house, raised plug sockets, a small pump to get water out and use flood sacs which are much lighter and easier to store and carry instead of sandbags.

'It's important how the community pulls together and knows who the vulnerable people are, so they can be helped too.'



"It's important how the community pulls together and knows who the vulnerable people are, so they can be helped too."

Jan

Brompton Resident

Devine Meats, a butcher's shop located just a stone's throw away from the River Wharfe in Tadcaster has experienced three severe floods since owner Zoe Devine started running the business 12 years ago.

Zoe said: 'We knew we were at risk of flooding, the same as many other businesses on the high street that are so close to the river. We've tried to make ourselves as resilient as possible with flood insurance, flood gates and sandbags, but unfortunately because the damage from flooding is so bad, we can no longer get insured. At worst, we've had to shut the business for four weeks and completely start from scratch.

'It's difficult to recover but the community in Tadcaster is brilliant. I'm a part of the Tadcaster Flood Action Group, and we're here to support each other to make sure everyone is safe when we have a flood risk. It's important to make yourself as flood safe as you can, by moving all electrics up five feet, and ensuring surfaces can be washed and cleaned easily. It's essential to have a plan and follow this through when the worst happens.'

Zoe Devine

Business Owner



"We've tried to make ourselves as resilient as possible with flood insurance, flood gates and sandbags."



Flood alert

Flooding is possible

It's used two days in advance of flooding

What should you do?

- Prepare suitable equipment to protect your property
- Prepare a grab bag of essential items if you need to leave your property
- Register for flood alerts by visiting www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



Flood warning

Flooding is expected

It's used half an hour to one day in advance of flooding

What should you do?

- Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if it is safe to do so
- Put flood protection equipment in place



Severe flood warning

Severe flooding and danger to life

It's used when flooding poses a significant threat to life

What should you do?

- Stay in a safe place
- Be ready to evacuate your home if required
- Call 999 if you are in immediate danger

Snow, rain, ice, heat and drought

Heavy rain, snow, ice, increased temperatures and drought can have a big impact on day-to-day life.

What could happen?

- Disruption to travel
- Damage to properties
- Power cuts, phone lines down and water shortages
- School closures causing childcare issues
- Increased number of admissions to hospitals due to trips, falls and heat exhaustion

What can you do?

- Check the Met Office for weather warnings and keep an eye on the weather forecast
- Ensure you are prepared for winter and question if your journey is necessary
- If you must make a journey, carry emergency food, clothing, blankets, water and a flask with a hot drink
- Check on elderly and vulnerable friends, relatives and neighbours
- In cold temperatures, make sure you are wearing layers of clothing and shoes with good grip
- Avoid being out in the sun too long, use sunscreen, drink plenty of water and do not start fires

Want to know more?

Check weather forecasts and alerts

<https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings>.

Find out more on our website www.northyorks.gov.uk.

What are we doing?

- Providing additional support via health and social services for elderly and vulnerable people
- Creating plans to manage the effects of severe weather and how this could impact our infrastructure
- Working with the Met Office who provide advice and severe weather warnings
- Working together to prepare business continuity plans so that emergency service organisations are still able to function
- Preparing for winter weather by gritting roads
- NHS prepares for additional pressure on their resources over winter and other emergency services have business continuity plans to enable them to still function



Weather warnings guide

The Met Office is the UK's official weather service and is responsible for issuing weather warnings to let people, businesses and emergency responders know what weather is in store and what the impacts could be.



Yellow Warning

These are issued for a range of weather situations. There may be some disruption to travel in a few places, but many people can continue with their daily routine.



Amber Warning

The weather could potentially disrupt your plans with a possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and the potential risk to life and property.



Red Warning

It is very likely that there will be a risk to life, with substantial disruption to travel, energy supplies and possibly widespread damage to property and infrastructure. You should avoid travelling, where possible, and follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities.

You can sign up for weather warning alerts direct to your email, visit www.metoffice.gov.uk

Extreme weather and farming

'The National Farmers Union represents 55,000 farmer and grower members that manage about two-thirds of the agricultural land across England and Wales. Building on the **National Farmers Union's Integrated Water Management Strategy**, we continue to advocate the need for a long-term strategic plan designed to increase the resilience of agricultural businesses to future extreme weather events and one that takes a whole catchment approach.

'To support our members to plan, prepare and recover from increasing extreme weather events, we have produced an **adverse weather, water and flooding toolbox**. The toolbox includes all the latest alerts, guidance and information to help keep members businesses and families safe, including quick tips on using your mobile phone to send an emergency message or to share your location. In the past, we have had member's land, under twelve feet of water in the early spring, followed by a very dry spring and summer that saw Yorkshire go into drought. Their businesses are impacted by climate change and how we manage these impacts. We therefore continue to engage with all Local Resilience Forums in their planning, incident management and recovery work.'

James Copeland

Senior Environment
& Land Use Adviser



The impact of Storm Arwen

Residents in the isolated village of Low Row in Swaledale were among the hardest hit during Storm Arwen. Temperatures plunged below minus six degrees centigrade and heavy snowfall coated the rolling hills, leaving residents without power and roads inaccessible to seek help.

Ex Parish Councillor Richard Lewis said: 'As a community we often have to fend for ourselves. Due to our location, we are subject to extreme weather and when we need help, the emergency services can't get here. I decided to set up the Community First Responders to support our community while we wait for help. It's grown into a team of volunteers who follow an ever-evolving emergency plan.

'During Storm Arwen, people were shut off with no contact to the outside world. Residents suffered with isolation and loneliness, with many trapped in their homes with no food, water, or power to heat their homes. Following this we fundraised for a generator to create a rest centre at our community centre for people to seek warmth. We're working together to become a resilient community.'

Richard Lewis

Low Row Resident



'We're working together to become a resilient community.'

Health



The spread of some infectious or other easily transmissible diseases can have a significant impact on public health, due to the number of people they could affect in a short space of time and the severity of their symptoms.

A pandemic occurs when a new strain of a virus emerges and spreads around the world, where most people do not have immunity to the new strain. This can happen with new flu strains, often emerging from the animal kingdom, but also with other emerging infectious diseases such as coronavirus.

Local outbreaks of infectious diseases, particularly those with severe symptoms or high mortality rates, can also have a significant impact, especially if they are easily transmitted from person to person or have limited treatment options.

What could happen?

- High numbers of people become unwell, many requiring hospital treatment and some dying
- Health and social care services could face sustained pressure or become overwhelmed
- Organisations may be disrupted by staff shortages, supply chain issues and the closure of non-essential businesses
- Limits may be put on social mixing, including isolation, shielding and cancellation of social events

What can you do?

- Keep a small supply of 'over the counter' medications to help relieve symptoms
- Identify an individual who can collect medication, food and supplies so you can stay home if you are unwell

- Keep up to date with routine and booster vaccinations
- Look out for friends, family and neighbours who may need additional support
- Follow advice from the NHS, such as catch it, bin it, kill it



What are we doing?

The Local Resilience Forum works together to create plans to:

- Keep the public well informed, including advice on how to stay safe
- Manage the impact on health and social care
- Put measures in place to reduce the spread of disease
- Distribute tests, vaccines and treatment such as antivirals
- Support business continuity planning for organisations, including essential services

Want to know more?

Visit the Government website <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk/health-infectious-disease-outbreak> for advice.

Call the NHS 24/7 non-emergency helpline by dialling **111** or visit their website <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Individuals with hearing loss can call **18001 111**

When travelling abroad, visit TravelHealthPro <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk> for advice.

Reducing the risk of infection

‘There are some easy steps you can take to reduce the risk of catching and spreading infections:

- Maintain good hygiene by washing your hands regularly with soap and hot water and clean frequently touched surfaces
- If you are unwell stay away from other people as much as possible, particularly those who are at higher risk of severe symptoms
- Make sure indoor spaces are well ventilated to prevent the build up of infectious particles in the air
- To prevent the spread of respiratory infections, consider wearing a face mask in enclosed or crowded spaces if infection levels in the community are high, or if you have respiratory symptoms yourself’

‘If you are unwell stay away from other people as much as possible’

Louise Wallace

North Yorkshire Council’s director of public health

Business continuity in a pandemic

Henshaws is a charity that supports people living with sight loss and a range of other disabilities. In March 2020 their specialist college in Harrogate had to implement sudden changes to its operations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Business continuity manager Lisa said: ‘During the pandemic, schools with specialist provision were allowed to stay open. We had a business continuity plan, but new announcements meant we had to constantly adapt. We risk assessed the staff and students to make sure we knew how many people we could support at one time to remain safe. We kept in regular contact with staff and students that had to remain home and implemented a bubble system when this came into effect. Non-critical activities stopped, and we moved some learning online by updating our technology and provided students with laptops. We kept a log of every decision made during this two-year period of change and used our expertise to help other schools and colleges to continue to operate. During unprecedented circumstances you need to know how it will impact your business and what your priorities are. Focus on what is critical and do not try to do too much!’

Lisa

Business continuity manager, Henshaws



Animal disease

Animal diseases are a serious threat to our health, as some diseases can spread from animals to humans. Outbreaks of avian influenza (flu), foot and mouth, bluetongue and rabies also have a huge impact on our farming industry and food chain.

If you keep livestock, you must:

- Register your land details with the rural payments agency
- Register livestock with Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Bird keepers should follow Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the latest advice
- Keep farm records up to date

We are creating plans to reduce the spread of disease and working with farmers and livestock keepers to raise awareness of animal disease and promote good hygiene.

Want to know more?

For information on animal disease prevention visit the Government website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs

For the latest animal disease news updates, subscribe to Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) animal disease alerts www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency



Utilities disruption



Utilities are the basic services used in your home or business to keep it functioning properly. This includes: broadband, water, electricity, gas, oil and fuel. Some utilities are dependent on others to work and an electricity network failure could affect a wide range of essential services. Even a local electricity outage could have a significant impact.

What could happen?

- People may lose power to heat their homes
- Disruption to essential services such as water supplies, transport, telecommunications, health care provision, the internet and schools
- Street light and security system failures
- Traffic light failures causing congestion

What can you do?

- Be prepared for an outage with a grab bag in your home containing a wind-up torch and radio, supplies of tinned and dried food and drinking water
- If required register as a priority customer with your relevant providers
- Stay alert for hoax callers posing as utility company workers

Want to know more?

Visit Northern Power Grid www.northernpowergrid.com/services-directory#priority-service-register for local power cut information

Visit Yorkshire Water www.yorkshirewater.com/priorityservices for information on how you can get assistance

Visit Northern Gas Networks www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/network-supply/priority-customers/ for advice if you are a priority customer

- Make sure. Use your mobile data if possible if your broadband isn't working.

What are we doing?

- Identifying vulnerable people who would require assistance in the event of a utility network failure
- Working with local electricity companies, emergency services, local authorities and other utility companies to minimise the impact
- Creating comprehensive plans to handle a complete national outage



Responding to power outages

When Storm Arwen struck North Yorkshire late in 2021, villages near Sutton Bank were left without power or water for four days. On the second day heavy snow cut off the roads for many hours, further hampering utility repair efforts.

Jeremy, a resident from the small village of Cold Kirby said:

'It's not unusual to be cut off up here, and we have had several power and water outages in recent years, so many folk are reasonably prepared. Have a plan already made that you can use at any time. It's always good to keep in the house some bottled water, easily heated tinned food, candles, matches, torches and batteries – and if possible, a camping gas stove. Having a water butt with water that can be used for loo flushing is very helpful too. Sharing information within the village was critical – not least because utility company and other helplines quickly get clogged up with callers so being able to share information through village WhatsApp and email groups was invaluable.


'Always look out for your neighbours – especially anyone vulnerable. This year we are getting a generator so we can use our village hall as an emergency centre.'



'...being able to share information through village WhatsApp and email groups was invaluable'

Jeremy

Resident of Cold Kirkby



'A power cut doesn't happen every day for our customers, thanks to investment in our network, but if it does our first priority is to restore supplies as soon as possible and we have plans in place to get your power back on.

'But what if – due to a complex fault or severe weather – you might have to be off supply for longer while our teams work to restore your power. Do you have a plan in place for you, your family, or your business? Have you considered making a power cut bag containing torches, spare batteries, thermal socks and gloves, tinned food that can be eaten cold and a battery-powered radio? If you run a business, have you considered owning your own generator? Do you have an emergency kit and know where important documents are kept?

'If you want to report a power cut or electricity emergency, you can call 105 and your call will be directed to our team.'

Mike Hammond

General manager, North Yorkshire region
Northern Power Grid

Cyber attack



A cyber attack is an attempt to steal, expose, alter or destroy information through unauthorised access to computer systems. Types of cyber crime can include financial gain through money theft, data theft or business disruption.

Smartphones, computers and the internet are such a fundamental part of modern life which bring new opportunities, but also new threats, which is why it is so important to be aware of the risks.

What could happen?

- Personal or business data is taken
- If the NHS is targeted, people's lives could be at risk
- Money could be taken from you or your business, and it could cost you to recover after the cyber attack
- An interruption to the supply of essential goods, services and communications network

What can you do?

- Install internet security on your laptop, table, PC
- Don't reuse the same password on different online accounts
- Review your social media privacy settings to reduce what other internet users can find out about you
- Don't give out your personal information unless you are sure it is a legitimate source
- Destroy receipts with your card details on and post with your name and address on

What are we doing?

- Developing plans to respond and manage the consequences of an attack
- Assessing the local consequences of malicious threats in line with UK Government guidance

Want to know more?

Visit the National Cyber Security Centre www.ncsc.gov.uk for more tips to stay secure online

To find out more about terrorism visit North Yorkshire Police www.northyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/terrorism-in-the-uk/



Be cyber secure

'Keeping your devices and information secure in the cyber world is essential in today's digital age. One of the most important steps is to use strong, unique passwords for all your accounts and enable two-factor authentication when available. A strong password is a combination of characters that is difficult for others to guess or crack. It typically includes a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters and is at least 12 characters long. Avoiding the use of easily guessable information such as your name, birthdate or common words can make your password stronger.

'It's important to note that a strong password alone may not be enough to keep an account secure, as other security measures such as multi-factor authentication can be used to provide an additional layer of security. An example of multi-factor authentication is when a user enters their password and receives a code through SMS or phone call to enter in a second field to access the account. This would mean that the user would need to know the password and have access to the phone that received the code. It can greatly enhance the security of your accounts and information, as it makes it much harder for unauthorised users to gain access, even if they have obtained a user's password.'

Camilla Stevenson

Tutor in cyber security

Ransomware, which locks users out of their files or device in exchange for money to restore access, has previously affected some NHS organisations.

Helena, an emergency preparedness, resilience and response manager at the NHS said: 'Computers which had older software systems that couldn't physically be upgraded because of the age of the device were locked by a ransom program.

'A number of NHS organisations were affected by this, but when the cyber attack became known, many organisations chose to disconnect their emails from servers to protect themselves from further damage whilst waiting for further advice. This caused wider disruption and became difficult to communicate any updates as the email system was offline. Learning from the incident identified that many organisations had not applied the recommended software updates in a timely manner which left systems vulnerable. The process for reporting suspected incidents was also unclear at the time of the attack, in addition to some confusion over how a cyber incident differed from a 'physical' one.'

Helena

NHS England



"Many organisations had not applied the recommended software updates in a timely manner which left systems vulnerable"



Preparing a grab bag

If you have to leave home at short notice, a grab bag can help you leave quickly with everything you need if you have to spend a few days away from home.

- Medicines and prescriptions
- Toiletries
- First aid kit
- Battery powered or wind-up radio
- Battery powered or wind-up torch
- Spare batteries
- Notebook, pen or pencil
- Blankets
- Baby food and accessories
- Children's toys and activities
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food and snacks
- Spare keys for house and car
- Insurance documents or details
- Money
- Glasses and contact lenses
- Mobile phone and charger
- Candles and matches
- Pet food and accessories

Check regularly that perishable items are still in date



Tips

- Keep your grab bag in a safe place
- Include anything else you would need if you left your home in a hurry
- The bag should be small enough to easily carry
- Check the grab bag regularly to make sure it's appropriate for each season

General advice

If you are in the middle of a major emergency:



Call 999 if people are injured
or there is a threat to life



Move to a safe place
if you are in danger in
your current location



Contact neighbours who
may be affected and let
family members know



If the danger is outside,
GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN



If the danger is inside,
GET OUT, and call 999



If you need more help
on getting prepared in
your home, visit:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-local-resilience-forum/protect-yourself-emergency

Business continuity management: be ready for anything!

Business owners... are you prepared for unexpected disruptions? A solid business continuity plan is your key to bouncing back quickly and keeping your operations running smoothly.

Why do you need a business continuity plan?

Having a pre prepared plan helps to ensure your business can continue during unplanned disruptions, such as flooding, storms, power cuts, cyber-attacks or supply chain issues. It helps to minimise downtime, protect your data, and ensure your team knows exactly what to do in a crisis. Plus, it shows your customers and partners that you're reliable, even in tough times.

It doesn't need to be complicated... on our website www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-local-resilience-forum we've provided an easy to use plan template to guide you through creating a robust plan tailored to your business's unique needs. It's designed to help you capture important actions that you or your staff would need to take if there's a business disruption.

How cyber aware are you?

Taking proactive steps to secure your business is not just important - it's essential for maintaining trust and ensuring long-term success.

The new www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home scheme, backed by the Government and industry, offers essential guidance to help businesses safeguard against cyber threats. Cyber Essentials is free to download and provides essential guidance to safeguard against common cyber threats like phishing, malware, and ransomware.



Simple steps for effective business continuity

- **Understand the risks:** know the local and national risks to your business. For example, if your area is prone to flooding, ensure you have flood defences in place.
- **Identify your critical activities:** determine which parts of your business are vital for survival. This could include your IT systems, customer service operations, or supply chain logistics.
- **Do a risk assessment:** evaluate the impact and likelihood of potential incidents. Consider how a power outage or a cyber-attack could affect your critical services for instance.
- **Create a plan:** develop and maintain a business continuity plan, which focuses on your critical activities. This should outline the steps to take during various types of disruptions, including who is responsible for what.
- **Train your team:** ensure your staff know their roles and can access the plan. Conduct regular drills and training sessions to keep everyone prepared.
- **Plan communication:** decide how to inform staff and customers during disruptions. Use multiple channels, such as your website, email, social media, and phone calls, to ensure everyone stays informed.
- **Emergency response:** if in immediate danger, call 999.

During an incident

- **Stay calm:** activate your business continuity plan. Follow the steps outlined to manage the situation effectively. Decide if some activities can be put on hold and those that can continue.
- **Document:** take photos/videos for evidence - this will be crucial for insurance claims and post-incident analysis.
- **Inform:** keep everyone updated on the situation and next steps. Clear communication helps manage expectations and maintain trust.

After an incident

- **Learn and improve:** review what worked and what didn't. Update your plan accordingly. Conduct a debrief with your team to gather insights and make necessary adjustments.

Stay prepared and resilient!

Need extra help?

North Yorkshire Council offers support for small and medium-sized businesses. Visit our website www.northyorks.gov.uk/north-yorkshire-local-resilience-forum for more information and resources to help you develop your business continuity plan.

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North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register 2023-2025 Version 1.
For the most up to date version, scan the QR code.