

GETTING

READY

TOGETHER

For the population of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales

This leaflet is being made electronically available to all residents of what is currently known as the United Kingdom, free of charge.

The author is responsible for its content. It was inspired by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency publication “If Crisis Or War Comes”, 2018.

The purpose of the brochure is to help us get ready for expected and unexpected events from serious incidents and extreme weather, to critical infrastructure attacks and hybrid or traditional military conflicts. Brexit and its economic and societal impact are a key concern.

At all costs we must defend freedom, peace, and democracy yet we must understand that this is no longer being catered for by Parliament, public authorities, county councils, or the private companies and organisations responsible for ensuring that society functions. Rather, we now share the collective responsibility for our own security and safety.

We are currently under threat from internal and external forces and our willingness to assist one another is our one unifying asset. By getting ready together, we can all contribute to the survival of what remains of decency.

KEEP THIS LEAFLET!

What would you do if...?

Any emergency can potentially result in the restricted function or failure of society to operate in the ways we are all used to. The most recent example of this in practical terms comes from the August 2011 riots which started in London, spread across the country, and lasted for five days. With a rising trend in violent protest and counter-protest from extreme domestic groups set against the UK governments own projections of food shortages and major disruption and disorder in the event of a no deal Brexit, we are faced with unprecedented yet quantifiable risks which the government has only months left to address. But we face many other growing risks too.

Climate change may increase the instances of flooding and wild fires; incidents and conflicts in the rest of the world may result in shortages of a variety of import items upon which we are heavily reliant – including fuel and food. Disruptions to IT systems through security breaches and attacks on undersea cables may have an impact on telecommunications, electricity, gas, water, and oil supplies; medical and nuclear supplies could be disrupted through trade arrangements; a loss of satellite system access could impact not only domestic use GPS, but military defences; a lack of migrant labour could continue to impact domestic food production along with reduced farm subsidies...

In less than five days, every day life could become extremely problematic:

- Heating systems stop working
- You have difficulties cooking or storing food
- Panic buying and failed supply chain may mean shops see empty shelves
- Domestic water supplies may be interrupted and contaminated
- No petrol and diesel is available and charging points are inoperable
- Payment systems, online banking, and ATMs are out of service
- Landlines, mobile networks, and internet services stop working
- Public transport and the emergency services are severely disrupted
- Medical supplies and medicines become unavailable and hospitals face critical incidents.

Think about and discuss how you and those around you will cope in a situation where the things you rely upon every day face major disruption.

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Getting Yourself Ready...

Your local councils, NHS trusts, and elected commissioners are responsible for ensuring the core functions and emergency services – including care, welfare, hospitals, pharmacies, and medical centres, policing, fire and rescue, and schools - are co-ordinated and continue their operations, even in the event of a major emergency. These services are already under stress due to austerity in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and may not meet the additional demands of a national or severe local crisis situation. In the case of Brexit, it is unlikely service provision would meet capacity of demand.

Preparing yourself cannot fix these issues in the fabric of our public administration, but it can enable you as a private individual to better cope with a difficult set of circumstances, irrespective of the ultimate cause or duration.

In the event of a serious societal failure or emergency, everyone has a duty to understand that state-led assistance will be prioritised, with those who are most vulnerable receiving help in the first instance. It is necessary to understand that the state is straining to deal with poverty already, and private organisations such as food banks are reliant on donations in order to assist families and children who otherwise would have no access to food. The truth is the majority of you have a responsibility to be prepared to cope on your own for some time and, the better prepared you are, not only will additional pressure on state-led assistance be reduced, but the more opportunity you will personally have to help others who would otherwise slip through the net.

It is essential that you have water, food, and warmth. It is desirable you are able to obtain information from the authorities and the media, and could contact relatives if you are outside of easy distance to travel to them.

Lists are provided herein suggesting items and foodstuffs to have at home.

Think about and discuss geographical and infrastructure features or risks in your area. What do you need to know more about?

Disinformation...

Hostile states, extremist groups, and private organisations are actively using misleading and deliberately false information to influence our values and our actions. The aim is to reduce not only our preparedness but our collective will to defend ourselves, creating distrust in the media and each other while eroding the capacity of the state to function fairly or properly.

This activity is increasing and also already does so exponentially around critical incidents.

The best way to defend yourself against this hostile disinformation – which is one strand of hybrid warfare – is to ensure that you are taking steps to critically assess the originator:

- Is this information factually based or is it opinion?
- What is the aim of the information? What does it suggest you do?
- Who has created or distributed the material?
- Do you know the source? Can you verify who they are? Are they trustworthy?
- Is the material or information available from any other trustworthy source?
- What is the date of the information? Is it current or old? Why has it been released at that moment in time?

Search for the information:

If you have done your homework, you will discover false information quickly and effectively. Research everything where possible and never react on the basis of emotion alone – this is a targeting technique.

Disregard rumours:

Always turn to more than one source in order to make an assessment of information or material.

Do not share:

Whenever you have a doubt about information, never pass it on. Disinformation relies on emotional responses to spread quickly.

Terrorist Attacks...

The United Kingdom has a long history of terrorist attacks, ranging from domestic-led groups to external threat actors and, most recently, hostile foreign states.

Such attacks may be targeted against individuals or specific groups, the general public at large, or may target critical infrastructure such as power supplies or transportation networks. The United Kingdom has seen remotely activated bombs, suicide bombers, vehicle enabled attacks, bladed weapon assaults, cyber attacks, and even chemical weapon deployments all within living memory. Cyber attacks are currently ongoing, aimed at critical infrastructure.

Despite the variety of methods which could be employed in future terrorist attacks, there is general advice which can be practically applied by you in most situations:

- Find a safe place and avoid joining or staying in large groups
- When you are safe call 999 and tell the police what is happening and what you can see
- Where safe to do so warn others who may be approaching danger or render help to those in need of assistance
- If you carry a mobile telephone, ensure it is switched to silent and do not telephone anyone who may be put in danger by a noise alerting someone to their presence
- Avoid using the telephone to make calls unless absolutely necessary, it is likely the network could be overloaded and this may affect the emergency services response
- Where a request is made to you by the emergency services, follow their instructions
- Do not share images or information which is unconfirmed by the authorities online or by any other means

Think about and discuss your day to day environment. Is your workplace at risk? What are the procedures already in place?

Think about and discuss your personal contingency plans for large events you may attend. Do not rely solely on organisers and authorities.

National Defences...

The combined military forces of the United Kingdom are in place to protect the state and the freedoms of those who live here. Unlike other countries, there is no duty or expectation on those resident in the UK to act if the country is threatened.

Military Defence

The British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Territorial Army and British Reserve Forces along with MI6, MI5, and other intelligence services and authorities are charged with the defence of our borders and territories, along with carrying out allied activities (i.e. NATO) and humanitarian missions (i.e. United Nations).

Civil Defence

The term Civil Defence applies to the resilience of society as a whole in the event of or threat of war. It is the work carried out by national and local authorities, councils, and private or voluntary organisations (including for example, the British Red Cross). The aim of civil defence is ensure that things such as healthcare and transportation continue to operate effectively during conflict.

Defence Issues

Both military and civil defence in the United Kingdom has been diminished in recent years due to the austerity measures which arose after the 2008 financial crisis. The current state of preparedness for war or the threat of war should be regarded as being insufficient, despite the best efforts of the dedicated serving members and those employed in domestic functions. The intelligence services have openly admitted they have been blind-sided by the scale of active hostile hybrid warfare campaigns and have been stretched thin by counter-terrorism operations. Additionally, unlike some other peer nations, there is no national duty for the civilian population to contribute to the UK's defence. There is no conscription (military or civil), and general national service ended many years ago. Internally, there are growing threats of “civil war” from extremists.

The world around the UK has shifted exponentially and the state has failed to address the changing needs of defence preparedness. The intelligence services and armed forces alone may not be enough.

While We Are Under Attack...

We should be capable of offering resistance to the various types of potential and active attacks against our home, but this is unlikely given the issues with our national defence.

Attacks are currently taking place against our critical infrastructure, our democratic institutions, and our values. These attacks are using cyber and psychological warfare techniques, as well as compromise of individuals and infiltration of political organisations.

Our European and NATO allies are also under attack and we are facing the prospect of significant impact to our defence capabilities and ability to effectively co-operate due to Brexit. There is a growing possibility that these hybrid attacks, aimed at destabilisation and weakening of group defences, could transition to traditional or conventional warfare within the next few years. We are also at significant risk of domestic unrest due to a number of internal threat actors being sponsored and/or supported by hostile foreign states.

Potential future attacks may include:

- Cyber-led attacks on critical infrastructure
- Physical sabotage operations, including transport routes, power lines and even nuclear facilities
- Terror attacks against key targets and gatherings/events
- Continued efforts to influence top level personnel and representatives, and the general public at large.
- Severance of critical undersea cables
- Disturbance to import/export routes
- Disruption to gas and oil supplies
- Transition to conventional warfare methods

If the United Kingdom continues to be attacked by hostile states and responds as it has done so far, it is unlikely to successfully resist.

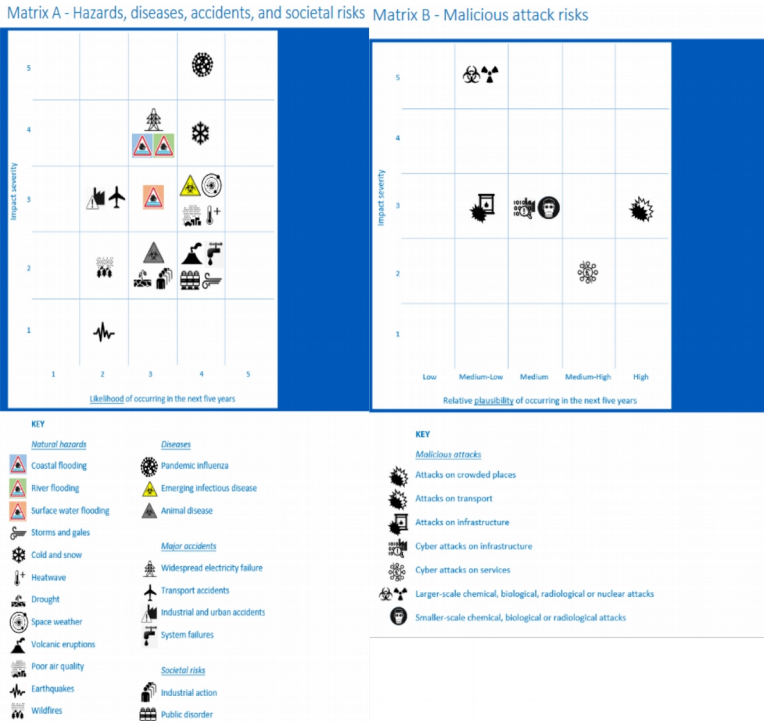
At a government level, the UK has failed to fully acknowledge the live threat it faces and subsequently the public at large are generally uninformed as to the scale and diversity of the ongoing attacks.

State Of Alert...

The current state of alert for terrorist attacks in the UK is SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely.

The Intelligence Committee has only recently identified Russia as posing a significant threat to the UK.

The 2017 National Risk Register is the latest government publication and incorrectly identifies a number of serious risks because it does not account effectively for the potential impact of Brexit:



Current risk assessments in the United Kingdom are insufficient to ensure safety and do not move with the rapidly changing environment.

Warnings, Alerts, and Shelter...

The warning mechanisms within the UK are not sufficient to ensure public safety and appear to be reliant on mobile telephones and social media being used to relay messages to the general public. Due to the ongoing and risk of future critical infrastructure attacks, this system serves no purpose whatsoever.

The United Kingdom has no general awareness or practice in the use of emergency sirens as public warning systems. The national siren system was mostly dismantled in the 1990s.

The National Attack Warning System, a joint venture of BT and the BBC was completed in the early 2000s and is widely regarded as completely defunct.

There is no network of public bomb shelters in the UK.

The UK does not engage in national preparedness campaigns of which the public are broadly aware. There is little local or national knowledge of what people should do or where people should gather or even seek communal shelter.

The UK is completely unprepared for and not engaged in a rational process of preparing for war or the threat of war, or any major societal threat, including Brexit.

BREXIT...

The UK Government has largely failed to engage with the public on the risks of Brexit, resisting most attempts to produce detailed risk assessments.

It is now known that Brexit will produce a minimum economic effect equivalent to that of the 2008 financial crisis. A no deal Brexit, in which the UK would leave the European Union without any agreements would produce an impact at least four times as large as this, affecting some individual regions by as much as twice the national figure. But this is only in terms of GDP, measured by the governments own assessments.

Practical, or day-to-day impacts include:

- No access to nuclear fuel for power stations or medicine
- Severe impact of medical supplies
- Five day delays to food imports, causing food to rot in trucks on the continent and generating panic buying and shortages nationally, leading to rationing
- Vehicle fuel shortages
- Gas and oil shortages
- Failure of GPS and defence systems
- Blockages to all imports and exports
- Hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic
- Loss of millions of jobs
- Loss of service sector tax revenues
- Flights may be grounded

Estimates indicate the UK would survive no longer than five days on internal resources in a no deal situation.

The reality of Brexit, whatever your political view, is that it has already cost jobs which has started to impact upon local economies up and down the country and will see a minimum degradation comparable to that of 2008. The government is offering no preparedness advice to any residents of the UK and still does not have defined positions on how key issues such as trade and essential immigration will function after March 2019.

The general public within the UK is completely unprepared for Brexit.

Basic Readiness In The Home...

Food

It is important to keep extra food at home which provides a good calorie intake. You should make sure you have non-perishable, shelf-stable food which can be prepared and cooked quickly and requires little water. Food which can be eaten without preparation is also ideal.

- Potatoes, Eggs, Cabbage, Carrots
- Long life bread – tortilla, crackers, rusks
- Hard Cheese, Cheese and other tube-spreads
- Milk powder, soy milk, oat milk
- Vegetable oil
- Quick cook pasta and rice, grains, instant mashed potatoes
- Tinned, pre-cooked vegetables and tomatoes
- Tinned fish, pasta, soup
- Fruit jams and marmalade, tinned fruit, honey
- Coffee, Tea
- Chocolate, energy bars
- Nuts and seeds

Water:

Allow for at least three litres of water per adult in your household per day. Be prepared to boil or sterilise water by chemical means. You can store tap water in containers with lids and should keep stored water in a cool, dark place. You can also freeze bottles – though you should not fill them to the top to avoid cracking – this will also help keep your freezer cold for longer if the power goes off for a prolonged period. You can line your toilet with plastic bags in the event of water being switched off and dispose of the contents away from your house, but good hand hygiene is essential.

- Bottles and bottled spring water
- Lidded buckets
- Expandable water containers
- Jerry cans

Warmth:

In a house with no heating by gas or electricity, use fireplaces where safe. Where no fireplaces are present, gather in one room and use extra blankets to line windows and doorways. Wear extra layers of clothing. Keep doors

and windows closed, even internally, but do air the room regularly to let oxygen in. You can also use extra rugs to line the floor of your selected room. Ensure you have a stock of candles and lighters or matches, but never leave candles or fires unattended.

- Woollen clothes
- Warm / outdoor clothing
- Hats, scarves, gloves
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Candles and tealights
- Matches, lighters, firelighters, survival fire starting equipment
- LPG or paraffin stoves or heaters
- Torches/lamps and batteries, clockwork torches
- Fire fuel and kindling – make plans for gathering and preparing

Communications

Though communications networks and the internet may fail, you should be prepared to be able to charge mobile devices. A variety of solar products are available and provide longer term solutions than power banks – unless compatible with the solar charger. Clockwork or battery powered radios are readily available, in order to gain access to BBC broadcast services. You may also use a car radio and car charger if you have access but monitor your battery and fuel usage. Keep loose change in case a telephone box is still present in your area.

- Solar charger
- Car charger adaptors
- Clockwork / Battery powered radio
- Loose change

General

You should assemble a good quality first aid kit, including bandages and antiseptic creams. Ensure that you have a stock of basic medicines/ additional stock of any essential prescription medicines you may need – e.g. insulin, test strips. Keep wet wipes and hand sanitisers for hygiene purposes, along with toothpaste and mouthwash, and any other products such as tampons and nappies which you may need to hand. Always keep your ID documents with you, and other essentials such as insurance policies/contacts should be printed out. Keep your car's fuel tank full.

About This Leaflet And Doing More...

There is nothing wrong with taking basic steps to enable you to be able to look after yourself and those around you in the event of a major societal event or critical incident which affects your day to day life. This leaflet is little more than common sense and, in an ideal world, should have been delivered to every household by the state.

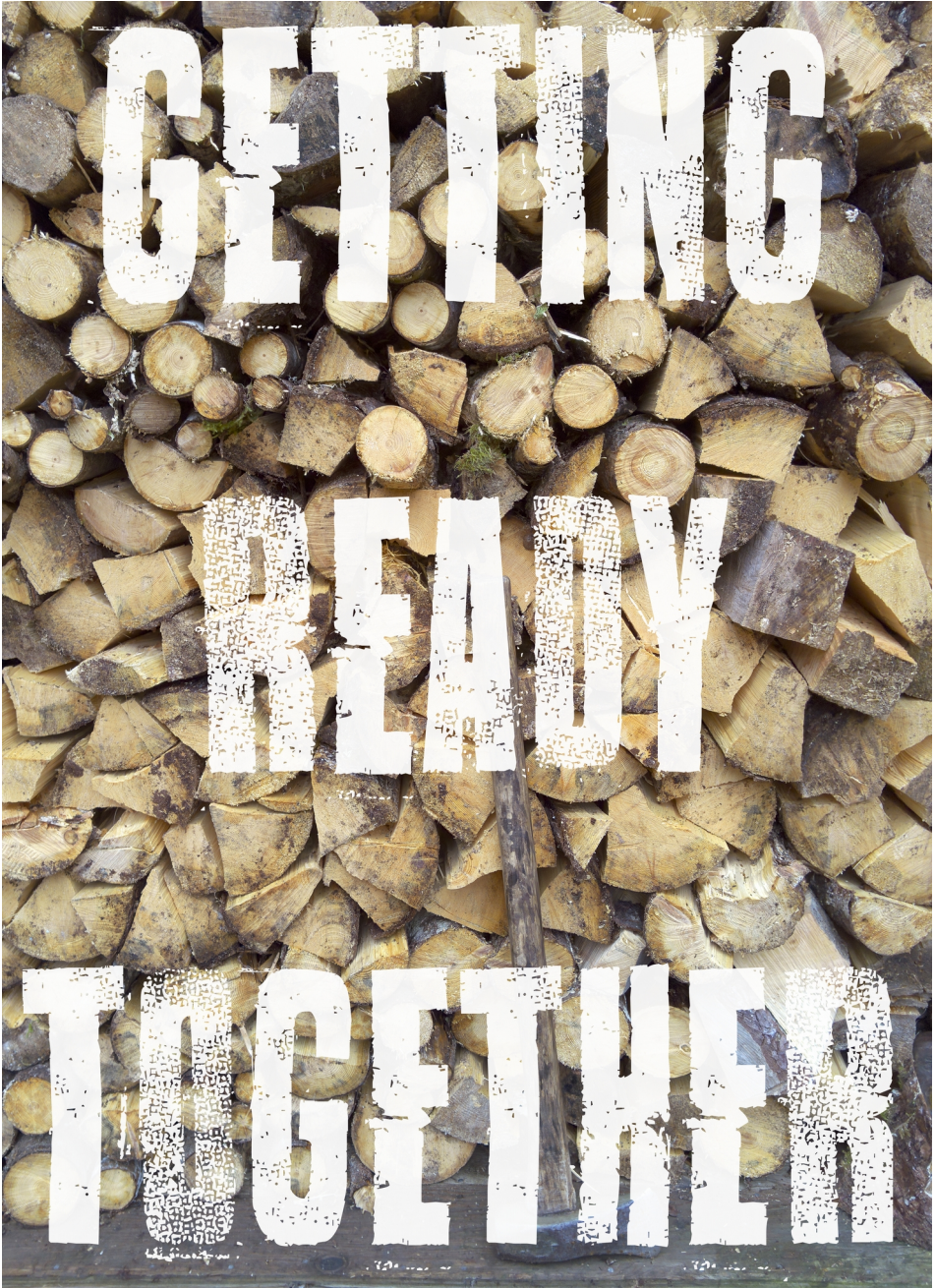
There is always more people can do to take personal responsibility for what they would do. For example, learning First Aid could save a life. But the options open to you are limitless. You could grow your own food, even in pots, learn self-defence, join a bush-craft organisation or group.

The reality is, with the world shifting as rapidly as it has been, you could end up on your own for a lot longer than a week, so think about what you need to do to be ready for that eventuality. It's never harmed anyone to be over-prepared...

**Over the next few months a free preparedness resource will be built at
www.libertystratcom.org**

The author of this leaflet, James Patrick, is a retired police officer and author who holds no political affiliation. He writes about hybrid warfare and cares about people. You can find his personal background in this parliamentary report and make your own decisions as to whether to trust him on that basis:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmpublicadm/760/760.pdf>



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