

Hazard/threat category	Sub-category
SEVERE WEATHER	
Hazard and threat description, plus scale	Risk reference number
Storms and Gales	H17
Date of revision	Next review
Nov 2007	Nov 2008
Version	2
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1. Overview of hazard or threat

Guidance definition: “Storm force winds affecting most of the country for at least 6hrs. Most inland, lowland areas experience mean speeds in excess of 55mph with gusts in excess of 85 mph”.

Causes considerable damage to structures, infrastructure and environment - both directly and indirectly. Danger from flying debris. Trees can be uprooted. Possible lightning strikes.

Possibly accompanied by rain that may cause flash flooding.

2. Key historical evidence

27 October 2002	Severe gales across the country. Roads blocked, power lines down etc.
29 Oct-14 Nov 2000	Storm causes flooding and fallen trees. Transport disrupted by blocked roads. Old People’s bungalows evacuated. Flood warnings on all rivers over an extended period.
24-25 October 1998	Storms and local flooding, fallen trees etc in the south of Buckinghamshire.
3-4 January 1998	Storms.
13-14 October 1993	Flooding and severe weather countywide - a lot of surface water.
16 Oct 1987	Hurricane Force winds across entire SE England – 20 dead.

3. Likelihood

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Storms and Gales	Regional	Rare (2)

4. Impact

Summary

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact				
		Health	Social	Econ	Env	Overall
Storms and Gales	Regional	1	1	2	1	Insignificant (1)

Details

Impacts
Primary
Storm damage / destruction to structures / buildings – may require immediate evacuation.
Flying debris.
Roads blocked by debris / trees – lack of access for emergency services.
Power cuts - power lines down – directly by wind or trees falling onto them.
No landline communications - telephone lines down – directly by wind or trees falling onto them. Likewise mobile phone network may be damaged.
Higher likelihood of road traffic incidents.
Flash flooding impact on built-up areas, cutting off roads and access / access for emergency services / responders for short periods.
Secondary
Lack of power – health and social impact on society, especially the vulnerable.
Need for temporary accommodation.
Building control to check damaged structures.
Damaged structures may have critical roles – consider schools, LA offices, ES stations or hospitals.
Isolated communities cut off.

5. Vulnerability and resilience

Severe gales and storms will have a wide-ranging effect across the region / Thames Valley area, although some isolated areas may be sheltered from the full force of the wind.

6. Overall assessment

Category	Sub-category		
Severe Weather	Storms & Gales		
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Regional	Insignificant (1)	Rare (2)	Low

Controls in place

- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service OC 15/1/1 Spate Conditions
- Buckinghamshire County Council Emergency Plan.
- Aylesbury Vale District Council Emergency Plan.
- Chiltern District Council Emergency Plan.
- South Bucks District Council Emergency Plan.
- Wycombe District Council Emergency Plan.
- Milton Keynes Council Major Incident Guide
- Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Plan
- Slough Borough Council emergency plan
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead emergency plan
- Wokingham District Council emergency plan
- Bracknell Forest Borough Council emergency plan
- Reading emergency plan
- West Berkshire Council Major Incident Plan.
- Meteorological Office Severe Weather Warnings
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust Major Incident Plans
- Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitas NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Berkshire Healthcare Trust Major Incident Plan
- Berkshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan and Operational Response Manuals
- Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Buckinghamshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan
- Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
- Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Nuffield Orthopaedic Clinic Major Incident Plan
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan
- Oxford Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
- South Central Strategic Health Authority Major Incident Plan
- Thames Valley Police Emergency Procedures Manual
- ACPO Emergency Procedures Manual

Additional risk treatment required

Nil