

Hazard/threat category	Sub-category
SEVERE WEATHER	
Hazard and threat description, plus scale	Risk reference number
Low temperatures and Heavy snow	H18
Date of revision	Next review
Nov 2007	Nov 2008
Version	2
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## 1. Overview of hazard or threat

**Guidance definition: Snow falling and lying over most of the area for at least one week. After an initial large fall of snow, there is further snow fall on and off for at least 7 days. Most lowland areas experience some snow falls in excess of 10cm, some drifts in excess of 50cm, and a period of at least 7 consecutive days with daily mean temperatures below -3°C.**

Low temperature any time of year but primarily autumn / winter / spring. Can affect all, however particular concern to be paid to the vulnerable. Low temperatures worsened by adding other climatic / social conditions, such as wind, rain / water, snow and inadequate heating.

Snow hazard mainly from December to March. Snow hazard particularly significant over higher ground, e.g. Chiltern Hills, Berkshire Downs, Cotswolds. Snow can cause damage directly or indirectly. Will almost always be accompanied by icy conditions on roads.

For the majority of people, the main hazard lies in the unexpectedness of sudden snow and ice conditions. However, the community would adapt. Concerns for the duration of such a hazard would be for the vulnerable (health issues) and continued provision of supplies to outlets.

## 2. Key historical evidence

January 2004	SE region (one day).
January 2003	M11 (one day).
20 February 1996	Rest Centre accommodation required for stranded motorists – snow – eastern UK.
19 December 1990	Abnormal blizzards in the UK.
1981 / 82	Heavy snow fall
1978 / 79	Heavy snow fall
1962 / 63	Heavy snow fall
1952 / 53	Heavy snow fall
1946 / 47	Heavy snow fall

### 3. Likelihood

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Low temperature and heavy snow	Snow falling and lying over most of the area for at least one week.	Unlikely (3)

### 4. Impact

#### Summary

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact				
Low temperature and heavy snow	Snow falling and lying over most of the area for at least one week.	3	3	3	2	Moderate (3)

#### Details

<b>Impacts</b>
<b>Primary</b>
Increase in cases of cold injury especially amongst the vulnerable.
Increase in road traffic incidents – with associated problems.
Delays on roads / gridlock – can result in cold injuries.
Poor access for all vehicles; lack of vehicular mobility.
Damage to power lines – causing power cuts – increase in cold injuries.
Damage to telephone lines (snow on lines / trees falling on lines) – causes loss of landline communication. Possible damage to mobile phone masts.
Burst water pipes causing damage to housing – possible need for temporary accommodation.
Isolated communities cut off.
Possible impact to river water quality from sewage treatment works as prolonged periods can effect the biological treatment process.
Later - possibility of flooding as snow melts.
<b>Secondary</b>
Increase in cold related illnesses (pneumonia, colds, hypothermia) including hospitalisations. Possible increase in deaths requiring registration.
Increased demand on LA Highways service / Highways Agency route clearance.
School closures possible – need for carers at home.
Waste collection service may be reduced.
Staff shortages – lack of access / illnesses.
Disruption to road / rail transport - commercial / economic disruptions.

## 5. Vulnerability and resilience

Low temperatures could be expected throughout the TV area. Snow however would be more likely to fall in greater quantities – and have a greater impact on the communities – on higher ground, for example the Chiltern Hills, Cotswolds and Berkshire Downs.

## 6. Overall assessment

Category	Sub-category		
<b>Severe Weather</b>			
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Snow falling and lying over most of the area for at least one week.	Moderate (3)	Unlikely (3)	<b>HIGH</b>

**Controls in place**

- Bucks Fire & Rescue service – 4 Off-road fire appliances (3 firefighting, 1 water tanker) on establishment at March 2006; 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 Trusts Major Incident Plan
- Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Berkshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan and Operational Response Manuals
- Berkshire Healthcare Trust Major Incident Plan
- Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
- Buckinghamshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan
- Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
- Oxford Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
- Nuffield Orthopaedic Clinic Major Incident Plan
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Organisations 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*