

INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazard/threat category	Sub-category
Industrial Action.	Rail network
Hazard and threat description, plus scale	Risk reference number
Strike action resulting in the total shut down of the rail network on a national scale (e.g. action by key rail workers, e.g. infrastructure workers such as signallers) for > 3 days. Greater impact if action occurs in a co-ordinated manner.	H35
Author	Reading Borough Council
Version	2
Date of revision	Next review
December 2007	December 2008

1. Overview of hazard or threat

The UK relies heavily on its railway network for both the transport of commuters and haulage of goods. ~1.2Billion passenger journeys were made on UK light railways in 2007/8. London and the South east, make up approximately 800million of these passenger journeys. ~100million Tonnes of freight were moved in 2007/8.

National Strike action on this scale (>3days) would cause disruption to Businesses in the UK, leading to a loss of productivity. Commuters would look to utilise other forms of transport including personal vehicles which will lead to an increase in traffic congestion on the roads.

Delays to freight transport would have impact on “just in time” supply chains leading to further loss of productivity for Businesses.

2. Key historical evidence

In Mar and Apr 2003 a series of 24Hr strikes occurred on the UK rail network, in relation to the role of guards on trains.

3. Likelihood

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Strike action resulting in the total shut down of the rail network on a national scale	Disruption to Businesses and supply chain. Disruption to Emergency services due to staffing shortages.	Negligible (1)

4. Impact

Summary

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact			
		Health	Social	Env	Econ
Strike action resulting in the total shut down of the rail network on a national scale	Disruption to Businesses and supply chain. Disruption to Emergency services due to staffing shortages	2	3	1	3

Details

Impacts
Primary
Disruption to Businesses and Essential Services due to a shortage of staff
Temporary closure of Businesses and other establishments (i.e. schools) where no robust plans are in place
Shortage of supplies due to lack of freight transport
Increased car use leading to congested roads
Secondary
Impacts on supply chain due to lack of freight transport

5. Vulnerability and resilience

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, places a duty on all Category 1 responders under the act to have in place effective Business Continuity Plans.

Businesses have no such legal duty, but larger Businesses tend to have dedicated Business Continuity managers. A vulnerability exists in terms of smaller and medium sized companies (SMEs) as these tend not to have Business Continuity plans in place

6. Overall assessment

Category	Sub-category		
Industrial Action.	Rail network		
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Strike action resulting in the total shut down of the rail network on a national scale (e.g. action by key rail workers, e.g. infrastructure workers such as signallers) for > 3 days. Greater impact if action occurs in a co-ordinated manner.	2	1	Low
Controls in place Reading Borough Council Emergency Plan Reading Borough Council Business Continuity Plan			
Additional risk treatment required None			