

Hazard/threat category	Sub-category
Industrial technical failure	Telecommunication infrastructure – human error
Hazard and threat description, plus scale	Risk reference number
Loss of telecommunications across a UK region for up to 5 days	H43
Date of revision	Next review
November 2007	November 2008
Version	2
Author	Utility through TVP

1. Overview of hazard or threat

The loss of all telecommunications across a region for up to five days including radio, television & internet

2. Key historical evidence

None available at this time

3. Likelihood

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Telecommunication infrastructure – human error	Loss of telecommunications across a UK region for up to 5 days	Unlikely (3)

4. Impact

Summary

Very significant impact can be expected on a society such as ours that relies on its telecommunications infrastructure for much of its daily life.

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact			
		Health	Social	Env	Econ
Telecommunication infrastructure – human error	Loss of telecommunications across a UK region for up to 5 days	4	4	1	5

Details

Impacts
Primary
Loss of emergency services numbers possibly leading to fatalities as persons cannot call for assistance
Credit card transactions & bank transactions stopped leading to possible collapse of the financial sector
Loss of all radio communications to emergency services possibly leading to fatalities or injuries
Serious disruption to Health care due to reliance on computerised medical records
Secondary
Increase in public order with the public looking for information
Bankruptcies due to companies being unable to recover from the losses incurred

5. Vulnerability and resilience

Unable to give a realistic assessment of our vulnerability other than to say that much of the fabric of our society relies on telecommunications and any disruption to that infrastructure on the scale detailed would be catastrophic.

6. Overall assessment

Category	Sub-category		
Industrial technical failure	Telecommunication infrastructure – human error		
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Loss of telecommunications across a UK region for up to 5 days	Significant	Unlikely	Very High
Controls in place			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not known what control measures the communications industry has to counter such hazards • Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust Business Continuity Plans • Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust Business Continuity Plans • Berkshire Primary Care Organisations Business Continuity Plans • Berkshire Healthcare Trust Business Continuity Plans 			

- Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust Business Continuity Plans
- Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Trust Business Continuity Plans
- Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust Business Continuity Plans
- Buckinghamshire Primary Care Organisations Business Continuity Plans
- Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust Business Continuity Plans
- Oxford Mental Health Trust Business Continuity Plans
- Nuffield Orthopaedic Clinic Business Continuity Plans
- Oxfordshire Primary Care Organisations Business Continuity Plans
- South Central Strategic Health Authority Business Continuity Plans
- Berkshire Integrated Emergency Planning Structure
- Wokingham District Council Emergency Plan
- Reading Borough Council Emergency Plan
- West Berkshire Council Emergency Plan
- Bracknell Forest Borough Council Emergency Plan
- Royal Borough Council of Windsor and Maidenhead Emergency Plan
- Slough Borough Council Emergency Plan
- 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.
- Environment Agency Incident Management Plans
- Environment Agency 24/7 incident response
- Environment Agency Memorandum of Understanding with Fire Brigades, Police, Local Authorities, Highways Agency, Health Protection Agency and Health Authority.
- South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trusts Business Continuity Plans
- Milton Keynes Council Major Incident Guide
- Thames Valley Police Emergency Procedures Manual
- ACPO Emergency Procedures Manual
- ACPO Motorway Manual of Guidance
- Oxfordshire County Council Emergency and Business Continuity Plans
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service Major Incident Policy
- Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Major Incident Policy
- Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service Major Incident Policy

Additional risk treatment required

Alternative means of communication to be included in continuity plans

