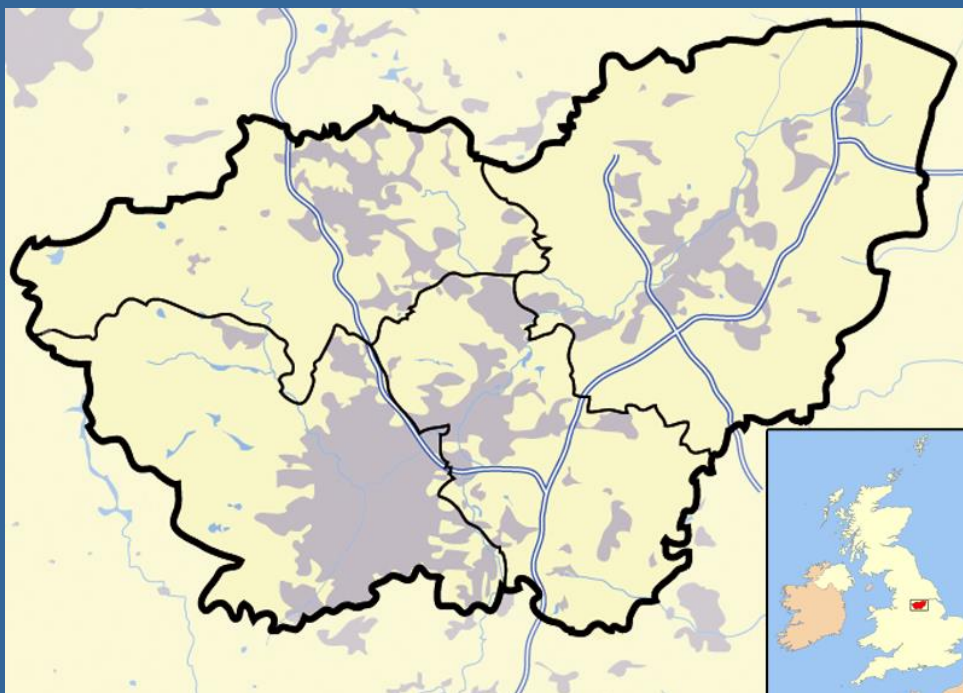


# South Yorkshire Community Risk Register



February 2022

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a multi-agency partnership across South Yorkshire which brings together representatives from all the local organisations needed to plan and prepare for major emergencies in the county.

The South Yorkshire Community Risk Register provides information on the emergencies that could happen in the South Yorkshire, together with an assessment of how likely they are to happen and the impacts they will have if they do. This includes the impacts to people, their homes, the environment and local businesses.

Just because a risk is listed in the register, this does not mean that we think it will happen, or that it may occur on any given scale; it simply means that there is the potential for that risk to occur.

Many different organisations are members of the Local Resilience Forum in South Yorkshire, and they have all used their expertise in helping to prepare this register.

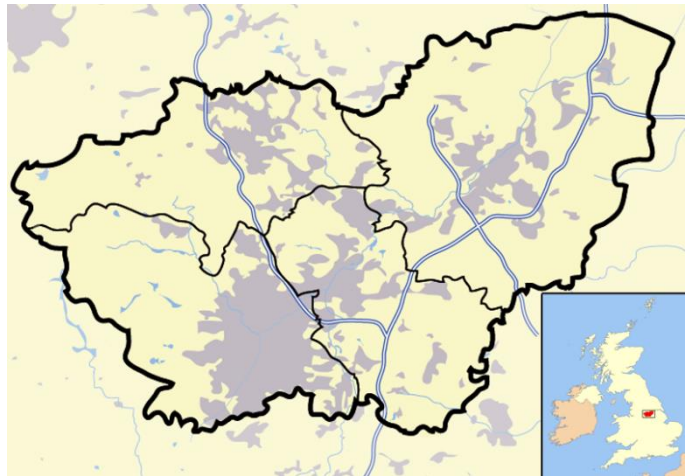
Producing the Community Risk Register is the first step in the emergency planning process to help us to gain a better understanding of the risks we face in South Yorkshire. The register enables local responders to be better trained and prepared to respond to an emergency.

The need for this register was created by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which placed a mandatory responsibility on emergency responder agencies to assess the risk of emergencies happening, to use those assessments to help plan for emergencies, and to prepare business continuity plans in order to provide an effective response to such emergencies.

In addition to listing the various risks, this register also provides you with what we hope will be very useful information about what you and your family / business can do to ensure you are prepared for the risks occurring and know what steps you should take in those circumstances.

## 2. SOUTH YORKSHIRE

With around 1.34 million residents, South Yorkshire is a metropolitan county in the Yorkshire and Humber region of England and has an area of 1,552 square kilometres (599 square miles). It has a mixture of urban and rural communities, with the city of Sheffield, major towns of Rotherham, Doncaster, and Barnsley, and many villages and smaller rural communities. In terms of local government, the population is served by Sheffield City Council and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Rotherham, Doncaster, and Barnsley.



The county borders Derbyshire to the West and South West, West Yorkshire to the North West, North Yorkshire to the North, Lincolnshire to the West and Nottinghamshire to the South East. The Sheffield urban area is the tenth most populous conurbation in the UK and dominates the western half of South Yorkshire with over half the county's population living within it.

In producing a Community Risk Register, the Local Resilience Forum considers the particular nature of South Yorkshire, its geography, its population spread, its economy, and its transport infrastructure in order to accurately assess the types of risk that could occur, and the impact such risks could have.

For example, unlike some counties, South Yorkshire does not have a coastline and therefore the types of risk associated with such a geographic feature are not ones we need to consider.

We do, however, have major roads running through the county - the M1, M18 and the A1(M), and therefore we do need to consider the potential risks that these features pose, unlike some other parts of the country.

### 3. WHO ARE WE?



South Yorkshire  
Local Resilience Forum

Whilst the South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is not a responder itself, its main role is to maintain effective cooperation and co-ordination of all responders, so that effort is not duplicated and so that responders understand how other partner agencies work.

The South Yorkshire LRF Strategic Meeting includes representatives from:

- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
- The four Local Authorities in South Yorkshire:
  - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
  - Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
  - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
  - Sheffield City Council
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- NHS England – also representing NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups
- UK Health Security Agency
- Environment Agency
- Met Office
- British Transport Police
- National Highways
- Network Rail
- Military
- Voluntary Sector – represented by the Chairs of the LRF Voluntary, Community & Faith Group
- Northern Powergrid
- Yorkshire Water
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Alongside the above membership, additional partners attend a range of South Yorkshire LRF Sub Group meetings including:

- NHS Trusts
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Sheffield University
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Voluntary organisations such as Victim Support and Response Pastors
- Doncaster Sheffield Airport
- North East Counter Terrorism Unit
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

The LRF has a number of subgroups that conduct the regular business of the forum, and one of these is the Risk Management and Planning Group which produces the Community Risk Register.

Further information about the LRF, its make up, and the work that it does, is available in the Annual Reports for the South Yorkshire LRF [on our website](#).

## 4. RISK REGISTER



The Government produces a [National Risk Register](#) of Civil Emergencies to provide an assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different civil emergency risks (including naturally and accidentally occurring hazards and malicious threats) that may directly affect the UK.

Our South Yorkshire LRF Risk Management and Planning Group use this and other guidance, plus local knowledge, to produce the Community Risk Register in order to inform emergency planning arrangements.

Our Community Risk Register identifies potential hazards – the circumstances, situations or events with the potential to lead to civil emergencies in South Yorkshire.

Individual risk assessments are produced by nominated 'Risk Leads' from across South Yorkshire and these assessments are based on the nature of the hazard, and the identification of existing and additionally required preventative and mitigation measures / controls / capabilities and contingency plans. The risk rating (the impact of the hazard combined with the likelihood of it happening) is plotted on a profile of severity.

The Community Risk Register is used as the basis for all our work within the Local Resilience Forum, making risk the foundation of resilience efforts in the county.

## 5. SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S TOP RISKS

South Yorkshire's Community Risk Register was last updated in 2021 to take into account some minor national changes.

This highlighted that the highest risks in South Yorkshire are:

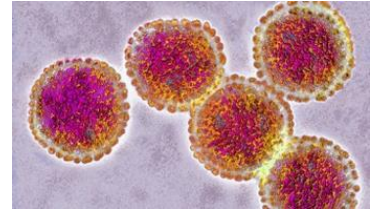
- Pandemic Influenza and other infectious diseases
- National electricity failure
- Flooding

In looking at all of these areas of risk, there are some “common consequences” which are common to them all – such as the need for warning & informing, arranging evacuation and shelter, and providing humanitarian assistance. We have reviewed our plans to ensure that we are planning effectively for these common consequences.

A summary of each of South Yorkshire's highest risks is shown overleaf.

## Pandemic Influenza

**What is it?** Seasonal influenza ('flu) normally occurs during the winter months. It is a much more serious illness than a cold and it usually results in having to go to bed for several days, feeling very poorly with a high temperature and aching limbs. Older people and people with chronic medical conditions (such as asthma) are most at risk of developing complications if they catch flu. Flu pandemics arise when a new virus emerges which is capable of spreading in the worldwide population. Unlike ordinary seasonal flu that occurs every winter in the UK, pandemic flu can occur at any time of the year.



**History:** The most devastating influenza pandemic in recorded history occurred in 1918/19, when a completely new influenza virus subtype (influenza A/H1N1, "Spanish flu") emerged and spread around the globe in around four to six months. Two further influenza pandemics occurred in the 20th century: "Asian flu" in 1957 and "Hong Kong flu" in 1968. Most recently the "swine flu" pandemic virus emerged in Mexico in 2009 causing mild/asymptomatic disease in the majority of cases, but severe illness and death in a small proportion of cases, particularly in more vulnerable groups.

**Impact:** Each pandemic is different and the nature of the virus and its impacts on the population cannot be known in advance. A pandemic is likely to occur in one or more waves, and roughly half of all the population may display symptoms of some kind (ranging from mild to severe). Large numbers of staff are likely to be absent from work at any one time, also affecting schools and other public services.

**What are we doing in South Yorkshire?** We work together to plan for management of the demand on the NHS and social care, raise public awareness, and make sure that individual organisations have their own business continuity plans in place to cope in times of staff shortage.

### What can you do?

- Look out for and observe NHS advice and guidance, particularly about reducing the spread of illness.
- Identify a "flu friend" who can collect your medication, food and other supplies, allowing you to stay at home when ill.
- Keep small personal stocks of "over the counter" cold and flu medication to help relieve your symptoms.
- Know the arrangements of your child's school.

### Further information:

Visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>



## National Electricity Failure

**What is it?** Power cuts, also known as power outages, blackouts or power failures, occur when an area is cut off from its electricity source. They can take place for a number of reasons, including network faults and damage caused by extreme weather. Electricity companies are responsible for responding to electricity failure incidents and have a duty of care to their customers.



**History:** There have been occurrences of wide area power cuts affecting large areas in the UK, but power is usually restored within 24 hours. However, because of our reliance on electricity, even localised losses of electricity can have a significant impact on those affected.

**Impact:** A prolonged loss of utilities could impact on our basic human needs such as sanitation, warmth, food and drink supplies, and also on the local transport infrastructure and telecommunications.

**What are we doing in South Yorkshire?** We work together with the local electricity company, emergency services, local authorities, other utility companies and agencies to plan for utility failure incidents (electricity, gas, water and telecommunications) and to minimise the impact. The UK electricity system is well managed, robust and resilient, and is operated to minimise the effect of any failure. There are comprehensive plans in place for handling a complete national outage as well as outages in local areas. Electricity companies identify vulnerable people requiring special support in the event of a prolonged electric network failure, and have contingency plans to deal with the risks associated with prolonged disruptions.

### **What can you do?**

- Your electricity, gas or water supplier should keep you informed about disruptions to your supply.
- In the event of an electricity cut, interruption to the water supply or a gas supply failure, you should telephone your supplier directly.
- Where appropriate register as a vulnerable customer with relevant companies.
- Outages may come without warning, so consider how you can be prepared.

### **Further information:**

Visit: <http://www.northernpowergrid.com/page/powercuts>

## Flooding

**What is it?** Communities living and working in South Yorkshire could be at risk of flooding from rivers or surface water. Investment in flood defences and emergency preparedness means communities are better protected now than ever before, but floods can still happen at any time.

**History:** Very severe floods struck South Yorkshire in 2007 and 2019.

**Impact:** The immediate impacts of flooding may include loss of human life, damage to property and possessions, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, disruption to telecommunications and utilities, and potentially health conditions owing to waterborne diseases. Six inches of fast flowing water can knock over an adult and two feet of water can move a car. There are also many hazards hidden under floodwater.

**What are we doing in South Yorkshire?** We work together to plan for all types of flooding – surface flooding from rain, river flooding, coastal flooding in Humber (meaning South Yorkshire may need to support the Humber area to evacuate residents), and reservoir failure. We build flood protection into new developments.

### **What can you do?**

- The Environment Agency provides a flood warning service for areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Their flood warning services give advance notice of flooding and time to prepare. Make yourself aware of what different flood warnings mean (see diagram below).
- If it is about to flood, you should be prepared to act quickly and get yourself to safety. Put the safety of people first and listen to advice from the Emergency Services. Remember that their concern is for your safety. Also:
  - Tune into your local radio station on a battery or wind-up radio
  - Switch off your electricity / gas supplies
  - If you have a household or business flood plan, put it into action
  - Move important items to safety, potentially upstairs
  - If there is time, fit any flood protection products you might have such as flood boards, airbrick covers, sandbags or alternative barriers, and toilet bungs (only needed for downstairs toilets).
- Avoid walking, driving or cycling through flood water.
- Flood water can contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste. Wash your hands thoroughly if you touch it and wear waterproof outerwear including gloves, wellington boots, and a face mask if you have it.
- Never allow children to play in flood water.



### **Further information:**

There are steps you can take now to prepare for future flooding. For more flooding advice please visit the [Environment Agency Website](#).

## 6. OUR PLANS

The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) has developed numerous plans to address all these current priority risks, and many other potential hazards that could occur in South Yorkshire.

These multi-agency plans have been developed following detailed planning by many of the responder agencies. They set out the approach that will be taken by the agencies involved to ensure that their work is consistent and co-ordinated.

We have also considered the plans established by other LRFs elsewhere in the country to ensure ours reflect both the best possible practice and the expertise of other organisations.

Individual member organisations of the LRF - for example the 999 emergency services, local authorities and NHS organisations – have also developed their own organisational plans and arrangements, within the LRF framework, to help co-ordinate responses to emergencies.

Collectively, therefore, the LRF has produced (and tested through training / exercises) plans which cater for many different eventualities, and not just those hazards identified as the “most likely” hazards facing South Yorkshire.

## 7. GET PREPARED

### Introduction

Thankfully, emergencies do not happen very often, but it is useful to have an understanding of the types of risk that we may face in South Yorkshire. The very severe floods that struck South Yorkshire in 2007 and 2019 are good examples.

The important thing to remember is that there are things you can do to make you and your family more informed and better prepared.

This section of our Community Risk Register gives you some basic information about ways you can help yourself. In addition, there is a great deal more information available, particularly on the Internet, about preparing for emergencies in general. There are many websites which offer useful information.

A good place to start is the South Yorkshire LRF website where you can find advice about preparing for emergencies. If you are reading this document online, you can follow the link here to [go to our website](#).

The government has some very helpful advice on preparing for emergencies [on their website](#).

If you have a smart phone, the [British Red Cross](#) has a free [Emergency App](#) you can download which includes lots of useful information on preparing for emergencies, and advice for coping with all sorts of emergencies.

### Plan in advance

You can save yourself valuable time, and possibly prevent injury and save life, if you have a plan for what you and your family would do in the event of an emergency.

In the sudden event of an emergency occurring, you do not want to be spending what could be vital minutes hunting for things you need. We suggest that you prepare an emergency kit in advance as part of your preparations, and fill it with the sort of things you may need, depending on the nature of the emergency and your particular family's needs.

The things that you will need to take with you will be personal to you and depend on your own circumstances. The following is a checklist of items you may want to keep in your home kit – either in a small, easy-to-carry bag, or in a checklist of the things you will grab in a hurry. Once prepared, keep this kit at home, and ensure everyone in the family knows where it is stored.

- ✓ A list of emergency contact numbers
- ✓ A battery operated torch and spare batteries (or a wind-up torch)
- ✓ A battery operated radio and spare batteries (or a wind-up radio)
- ✓ Any essential medication, some toiletries and a first aid kit
- ✓ Three days' supply of bottled water and ready-to-eat food that won't spoil (remember a tin opener if your kit contains tins of food)

- ✓ Copies of important documents, such as insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, bank account details
- ✓ Spare keys to your home and car
- ✓ Spare glasses or contact lenses
- ✓ If needed, baby and pet supplies

It may also be worth making a duplicate (or partial duplicate) kit and keeping that in the car or at work.

On the move, you may want to consider having:

- ✓ Suitable clothes for the weather, such as winter boots with grips, warm clothing or waterproofs
- ✓ Ready-to-eat food, a warm drink in a flask and bottled water
- ✓ Mobile phone and charger
- ✓ Any essential medication
- ✓ Spare glasses or contact lenses
- ✓ Cash and credit cards
- ✓ List of emergency contact numbers
- ✓ If needed, baby and pet supplies

In the car, you may want to consider having a kit for when you are going on long journeys:

- ✓ Battery operated torch and spare batteries (or a wind-up torch)
- ✓ Map for unplanned diversions
- ✓ Warm clothes and blankets (for you and all your passengers)
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Ice-scraper and de-icer
- ✓ Snow shovel
- ✓ Jump leads

## Create an evacuation plan

Have a plan for where your family will meet in the event of an emergency. That could be at home, or in a place very close to home. Identify somewhere outside your immediate neighbourhood as a back up plan should that become required. Make sure everyone in your family knows about these plans, and carries that information with them, perhaps in a wallet or purse.

If you have a car, try to get into the habit of keeping at least half tank of fuel in it at all times, just in case you need to suddenly evacuate. You do not want to be caught up in a long queue at the petrol station, or, worse, break down. The routes you may normally take when leaving home by car may become congested or even blocked, so familiarise yourself with some alternative routes out of the area.

If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave in the event that you have to.

Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency involving the need for evacuation. You could consider taking your pets with you, but be aware that only guide or hearing dogs may be allowed into public shelters.

Making phone calls may be difficult in the event of an emergency involving lots of people. As well as ensuring mobile phones are fully charged, it may be sensible to keep a quantity of change in your evacuation kit in case you need to use a public telephone kiosk.

### Think about Fire Safety

Fires in the home, workplace and community are among the biggest risks to the safety of family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. Simple steps can keep you safe and ensure that if a fire happens, you're well prepared.

- Fit a smoke alarm to each level of your home and test it once a week
- Fit a carbon monoxide alarm
- Prepare a bed time routine to check for fire hazards (e.g. checking that all candles and cigarettes are safely extinguished, and that appliances are switched off)
- Plan an escape route with your family, and pick a safe place in case your route is blocked – make sure that everyone in the house knows where door and window keys are kept
- Visit the [South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue website](#) for more safety advice and precautions

### Learn how to turn off utilities

You may need to do this in the event of having to evacuate. Even in less extreme circumstances, like a burst pipe or gas leak, it is useful to know how to do this.

- Find the electricity, gas and water shut-off valves
- Keep necessary tools near gas and water shut-off valves
- Teach members of your family how to turn off these utilities

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free service provided by utility suppliers and network operators to customers in need. You can receive the services available if you:

- ✓ are of pensionable age
- ✓ are disabled or chronically sick
- ✓ have a long-term medical condition
- ✓ have a hearing or visual impairment or additional communication needs
- ✓ are in a vulnerable situation.

Each energy supplier and network operator maintains its own register. To be added to the Priority Services Register, you simply need to contact your energy supplier. You can find their contact details on your bill. If you have a different supplier for your gas and electricity, you need to contact them both. If you switch supplier, you'll need to register for the service again with them.

## Schools / day care

If you are a parent, or guardian of an elderly or disabled adult, check that the school(s) and day-care provider have emergency response plans to inform you if an incident has taken place and what action, if any, you may be required to take.

- Find out in advance how they will communicate with you / your family during a crisis
- Ask if they store adequate food and other basic supplies (NB: schools don't normally store drinking water)
- Find out if they are prepared to 'stay put' if need be, and where they plan to go if they have to evacuate

## Plan to work as a community

A community working together during an emergency makes sense and can make a significant difference to everyone involved.

We suggest that, as part of your preparations, you may want to:

- Talk to your neighbours about how you can work together during an emergency
- Find out if anyone has specialised equipment like a power generator, or expertise such as medical knowledge, that might help in a crisis
- Find out if you have a Local Flood Warden via the Environment Agency's website
- Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbours
- Make back-up plans for children in case you can't get home in an emergency
- Share plans in advance

## When the emergency happens

In the event of a major incident or emergency, even though you may not be directly involved but are close by or believe you may be in danger, the best advice is to go inside a safe building, to stay inside until you are advised to do otherwise, and to monitor local radio or TV for further information.

There may be occasions, in the event of a major incident or emergency, when it may not be safe to seek refuge inside a particular building – for example, if it is on fire or obviously structurally unsound. In such circumstances, find an alternative building in which to take cover.

Having found a place of safety:

- ✓ Make sure 999 has been called if people are injured or if there is a threat to life
- ✓ Do not put yourself or others in danger
- ✓ Follow the advice of the emergency services or other responders (e.g. your local authority)
- ✓ Try to remain calm, think before acting, and try to reassure others

- ✓ Check for injuries - remember to help yourself before attempting to help others
- ✓ Stay tuned to local radio

South Yorkshire has special arrangements with BBC Local Radio stations which will broadcast warning and information messages. Please make a note of the following:

- BBC Radio Sheffield is on 104.1, 88.6, and 94.7FM, 1035AM & DAB
- BBC Radio Nottingham is on 103.8, 95.5, and 95.1FM, 1584 AM & DAB
- BBC Radio Leeds is on 92.4 FM, 103.9 FM, 95.3 FM and 102.7 FM, 774 AM and DAB radio.

The BBC has an obligation to provide such messages and whilst that commercial radio stations do not have the same responsibility, they too will also broadcast important information and it is worth making a note of the following frequencies as well:

- Hallam FM - 97.4, 103.4 & 102.9FM
- Rother FM - 96.1FM
- Dearne FM - 97.1 & 102.0FM
- Trax FM - 107.1FM

The particular frequency wave will depend on your location.

**Stay inside** - Whether you are at home, work or elsewhere when an emergency happens, there may be situations when it is simply best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. This will help protect you from any fumes, particles or debris. And remember:

- ✓ If you are able to, bring your family and pets inside with you
- ✓ Lock doors, close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers
- ✓ Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems
- ✓ Make sure you have to hand your emergency supply kit (see above) unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated
- ✓ Go into a room which has as few windows as possible
- ✓ Monitor local radio, TV stations and the Intranet if possible for news and information from the emergency services

**If you need to evacuate** - Take your emergency supply kit (see above) with you and lock the door behind you when you leave. Take your pets with you, but remember: only guide or hearing dogs may be permitted in public shelters.

**Turn off utilities** - You may need to do this in the event of having to evacuate. Find the electricity, gas and water shut-off valves. Turning water and electricity supplies back on should not present any difficulties or risks to you; however, you may wish to seek professional advice before attempting to reconnect gas supplies.