

MERTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN

Civil Contingencies
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM3 8HL
Tel: 020 8545 3476
Web: www.merton.gov.uk

Version 1: January 2017

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

TRIGGERS

The following are trigger points for activating the Plan:

- Receipt of a Severe Weather Warning, Flood Warning, Severe Flood Warning, Level 3 Heat Health Watch or Level 3 Cold Weather Plan alert.
- Decision of the Director Environment & Regeneration, Flood Risk Management Engineer or the Civil Contingencies Adviser (see section 2 for examples of events that could lead to the plan being invoked).
- Request from regional structures (LLAG) to activate the Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC) in anticipation of, or response to, a major incident.

PLAN ACTIVATION

- The plan will be activated by the Incident Manager, usually the Director Environment & Regeneration, Flood Risk management Engineer or the Civil Contingencies Adviser, who will put Departments on alert in accordance with the appropriate level of response and appropriate staff on standby. The Merton BECC may also be activated to manage the event.
- The actions upon receipt of a warning covering the London area are detailed below. If the Corporate Major Incident Plan has been invoked the actions detailed therein should be followed.

Yellow Alert

- Circulate the alert/warning to nominated officers using the “Warnings & Weekly” distribution list and the “Warnings Other” distribution list.
- Monitor the weather and any further communications from the Met Office; these could be warnings/alerts or an email from the Met Officer Advisor (Civil Contingencies).

Amber Alert

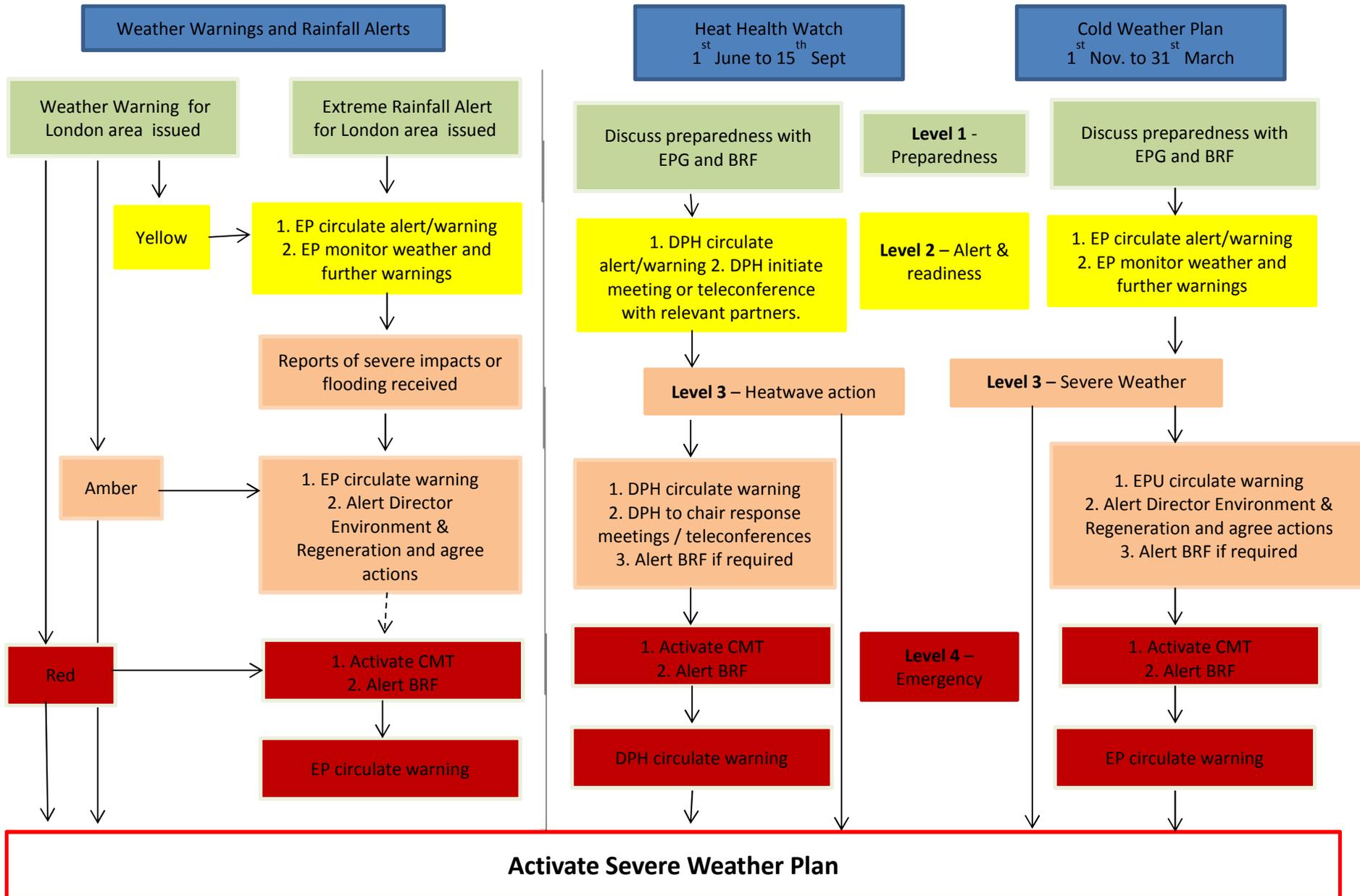
- Circulate the alert/warning to nominated officers using the “Warnings & Weekly” distribution list and the “Warnings Other” distribution list.
- Monitor the weather and any further communications from the Met Office; these could be warnings/alerts or an email from the Met Officer Advisor (Civil Contingencies).
- Alert the Director Environment & Regeneration, Flood Risk Management Engineer or the Civil Contingencies Adviser and agree further actions.
- Activation of the Corporate Severe Weather Plan

Red Alert

- Circulate the alert/warning to nominated officers using the “Warnings & Weekly” distribution list and the “Warnings Other” distribution list.
- Monitor the weather and any further communications from the Met Office; these could be warnings/alerts or an email from the Met Officer Advisor (Civil Contingencies).
- Alert the Director Environment & Regeneration, Flood Risk Management Engineer or the Civil Contingencies Adviser and agree further actions.
- Activate the CMT
- Activate the Corporate Severe Weather Plan

The above actions are performed by the Civil Contingencies Adviser unless the alert is in relation to a Heat Health Alert; as this is a health related matter the response will be lead by the Director of Public Health.

Severe Weather Plan - Activation Triggers



1. Introduction

The following document supports the Merton Major Incident Plan and provides event specific detail for the response to severe weather. Depending on the type, severity and lead-in time of the weather, the response may be treated as a major incident when the Council would invoke the provisions of the Corporate Major Incident Plan or other plan such as the Multi-Agency Flood Plan.

1.1. Objectives of the Plan

The objectives of the Corporate Severe Weather Plan are;

- i. To ensure activation at the appropriate level within the Council at the initial stages of severe weather incidents.
- ii. To ensure co-ordinated management of any severe weather incident.
- iii. To ensure a co-ordinated approach with partners, where required, during a severe weather incident.

The Plan provides a framework for the activation, allocation and deployment of Council resources in the event of severe weather. In the event of invocation of the Corporate Severe Weather Plan, the Council will seek to:

1. Identify those areas most likely to be affected.
2. Implement actions as identified in the departmental plans
3. Give priority to vulnerable areas and people.
4. Work closely with partner organisations in our response to the incident.
5. Provide full information at the earliest opportunity to those likely to be affected by the disruption, including residents of the Borough, staff and Members of the Council, other agencies and the media.

The types of severe weather and flooding conditions that the UK Government uses for contingency planning purposes are severe storms and gales, persistent low temperatures and heavy snow and heatwaves.

2. Weather and its possible effects

	Met Office criteria	Possible effects
Severe gales	Repeated gusts of 70 m.p.h. or more over inland areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-sided vehicles at risk of being blown over ▪ Some trees uprooted ▪ Tiles, slates and chimneys dislodged from some buildings
Storms	Repeated gusts of 80 m.p.h. or more over inland areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cars blown out of lanes on roads ▪ Widespread removal of branches from trees; many trees uprooted ▪ Tiles, slates and chimneys dislodged from many buildings; some structural damage <p>Where wind is forecast above 90 m.p.h. the following may occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collisions whilst driving ▪ Widespread uprooting of trees ▪ Injury due to flying debris ▪ Widespread damage to buildings; some buildings collapse
Heavy snow	Snow falling at a rate of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased journey times

	cm/hour or more expected for at least two hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor accidents
Very heavy snow	Snow falling at a rate of 2 cm/hour or more expected for at least two hours, accumulating to 15 cm or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local routes impassable Local loss of power and telecommunication lines
Blizzard	Moderate or heavy snow accompanied by winds of 30 m.p.h. or more, with visibility reduced to 200 m or less; or drifting snow giving rise to similar conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major routes impassable Local loss of power and telecommunication lines
Severe blizzard	Heavy Snow accompanied by winds of 30 m.p.h. or more, reducing visibility to near zero.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport infrastructure paralysed Regional loss of power and communication lines
Fog	Visibility below 50 metres (restricted to heights where major roads occur).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty identifying distances and speed of movement leading to increased journey times Road traffic accidents
Heavy rain	Rain expected to continue for at least two hours and give at least 15mm within a three hour period or, following previous heavy rain events, 25mm in a day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquaplaning Flooding Squally winds or tornadoes may remove roof tiles or chimneys Power surges
Widespread icy roads, glazed frost, freezing rain	When rain falls onto surfaces with temperatures at or below zero; or condensation occurs on surfaces at or below zero; or already wet surfaces fall to or below zero. The ice is usually clear and difficult to distinguish from a wet surface. It usually forms in sheets. Warnings are issued when any depth of ice is expected over a widespread area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to power and telecommunication lines Driving difficulties Difficulty when walking
Heatwave (NHS Heat-Health Watch)	Expectation of significantly higher than average temperatures in one or more regions of England and Wales; thresholds are pre-determined regionally via the Heat-Health Watch system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat exhaustion and heat stroke; this can lead to organ failure, brain damage or death <p>Those most vulnerable to these effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older people, especially those over 75 years old; those suffering from mental ill health; the bed-bound; those on certain medication; babies and young children, especially those under four years old.
Severe Cold Weather (NHS Cold Weather Plan)	Expectation of significantly low temperatures (mean of 2°C) in one or more regions of England and Wales for a period of 48 hours or more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold weather increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, lung illnesses, influenza and other diseases. Ice and snow cause people slip and fall causing serious injuries. <p>Those most vulnerable to these effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older people, especially those over 75 years old and those living on their own; those with pre-existing medical conditions; those suffering from mental ill health; those living in deprived circumstances, homeless or those sleeping rough; those on certain medication; babies and young children.

3. Risk

Severe weather has been classified a Medium to High risk in the London Risk Register. An extract of the London Risk Register is shown below; however, this has been modified to fit – for further information view the full document

(<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/London%20Risk%20Register%204.0.pdf>).

Severe Weather					
Ref ID	Risk Sub-category (Lead Assessor)	Outcome Description/Variation and Further Information	Likelihood	Impact	Controls in Place
			Risk Rating		
H 17	Storms & Gales. (Local Authorities)	Storm force winds affecting most of the South East England region for at least 6 hours. Most inland, lowland areas experience mean speeds in excess of 55 mph with gusts in excess of 85 mph. Up to 50 fatalities and 500 casualties with short term disruption to infrastructure including power, transport networks, homes and businesses.	3	3	Regular inspections of trees and highways for maintenance. Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service Met Office Hazard Manager Service Responder specialist resources
			High		
H18	Low temperatures and heavy snow. (Local Authorities)	Snow falling and lying over most of the area for at least one week. After an initial fall of snow there is further snow fall on and off for at least 7 days. Most lowland areas experience some falls in excess of 10cm, a depth of snow in excess of 30cm and a period of at least 7 consecutive days with daily mean temperature below -3°C. Up to 1000 fatalities (excess deaths) and thousands of casualties, mainly amongst the elderly and there is likely to be some disruption to transport networks, businesses, power supply and water supply, and also school closures.	3	3	Highways Act 1980, Railways and Transport Act 2003 Government's 'Snow Code' Specific plans for traffic management Coordination of gritting and salt stocks Met Office National Severe Weather Warning Service Responder specialist resources
			High		
H48	Heatwave (Health)	Daily maximum temperatures in excess of 32°C and minimum temperatures in excess of 15°C over most of the UK for at least 5 consecutive days and nights. Up to 1000 fatalities and 5000 casualties mainly amongst the elderly. There could be disruption to power supply and transport infrastructure. The heatwave event definition is based on and August 2003 type event, but more serious.	4	3	Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 Public Health Act Heatwave Plan for England London Resilience Partnership Plans Climate Change Adaption Strategy for London Heat-Health Watch
			Medium		
H50	Drought	Periodic water supply interruptions	2	4	Water Resources Act 1991

	(Environment Agency)	affecting 385 000 businesses in London for up to 10 months. Emergency Drought Orders in place authorising rota cuts in supply according to needs of priority users as directed by Secretary of State. The 2.24 million households in London would not be subjected to supply interruptions. A drought of this severity is unprecedented and would take at least 3 dry winters to develop	High	Floods & Water Management Act 2010 Progressive restraints on consumption to preserve supply for critical services Storage reservoirs
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4. Activation of the Corporate Severe Weather Plan

4.1. Crisis Management Team (CMT)

The CMT will be led by the Incident Manager and will have representation from each department, press and emergency planning. Departmental representatives will be fully briefed by their departments or may be accompanied by section officers where a department has a large number of areas of responsibility.

4.2. Communications

The Emergency Planning Team will ensure that all departments are aware that a warning has been issued which is considered to be of concern to the Council and the actions being taken.

If the decision is taken to activate the severe weather plan at a corporate level then the Incident Manager will ensure that a CMT meets as soon as possible to agree strategy and communications. The Incident Manager will be responsible for agreeing statement to press and briefings to councillors and MPs.

5. Notification of a Severe Weather Incident

Notification of a severe weather event can originate from many different sources. These include alert systems from partner agencies, information received via the Civil Contingencies Adviser, Merton Emergency Planning, CCTV and operatives out in the borough. There may also be cases of severe weather occurring with no warning such as a severe storm or tornado, or other natural phenomenon such as earthquakes.

5.1. National Severe Weather Warning System (NSWWS)

The NSWWS is a service produced by the Met Office to provide warnings of severe or hazardous weather. The service has recently undergone a number of changes and the system is now based on impact rather than meteorological criteria.

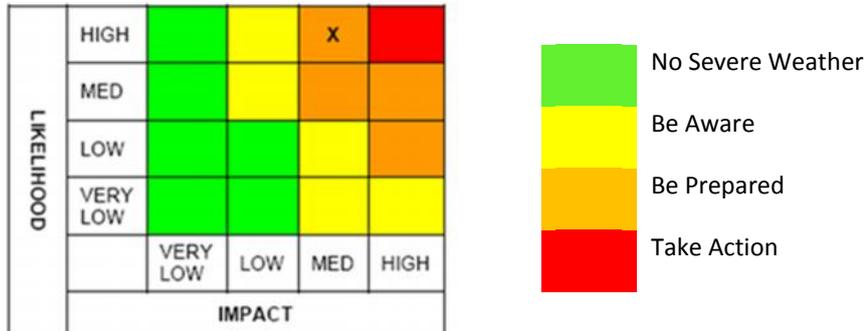
There are two different types of notification, **Alerts**, issued more than 24 hours ahead and **Warnings**, issued up to 24 hours ahead. The new NSWWS will be used for the following types of weather:

- Rain
- Snow
- Wind



- Fog
- Ice

Each warning or alert will be assigned a warning level based on a combination of likelihood and the impact the conditions may have. The table below sets out this updated matrix. For example a weather event with a medium impact but a high likelihood would be given an amber rating.



Associated with each of the colour ratings are a series of actions seen on the above right hand side. Each weather warning or alert will be accompanied by the Chief Forecasters Assessment which will explain why it has been given the colour it has, as well as indicating where any uncertainties lie. All of this information will be available via the MET office website and be sent through the same methods as the previous NSWWS warnings.

The Met Office has also produced information for the public and emergency responders on the impact level of each of the different warning levels; the generic impacts are listed below.

Impact Level	Public Impact	Responder Impact
Very Low	The weather is not expected to have any noticeable impacts but there may be some minor issues e.g. when travelling some extra care may be needed on occasions and there may be some disruption to outdoor events.	Nil
Low	<p>BE AWARE and ensure you access the latest weather forecast for up to date weather information.</p> <p>Expect some minor delays due to slower traffic.</p> <p>Outdoor events may be disrupted or cancelled.</p>	Incidents dealt with under "business as usual response" by emergency services e.g. Limited number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)
Medium	<p>BE PREPARED. Take precautions where possible and ensure you access the latest weather forecast.</p> <p>BE PREPARED for some disruption to normal daily routines.</p> <p>Travel only if well prepared and BE</p>	<p>Short term strain on emergency responder organisations.</p> <p>Risk of injuries with potential danger to life.</p> <p>Potential for short term loss of some Utilities.</p>

	PREPARED for longer journey times.	Some disruption to travel with potential for commuters to be stranded for short periods.
High	<p>TAKE precautionary ACTION and remain extra vigilant. Follow orders and any advice given by authorities under all circumstances. Ensure you access the latest weather forecast.</p> <p>EXPECT significant disruption to normal daily routines.</p> <p>Avoid all non-essential journeys.</p> <p>If you must make a journey carry emergency food/clothing/blanket etc.</p>	<p>Prolonged strain on resources of emergency responders.</p> <p>Potential danger to life.</p> <p>Potential for loss of utilities for lengthy periods (perhaps days).</p> <p>Severe disruption to travel with prolonged delays.</p> <p>Commuters may be stranded for long periods.</p> <p>Mutual aid arrangements may require activation.</p>

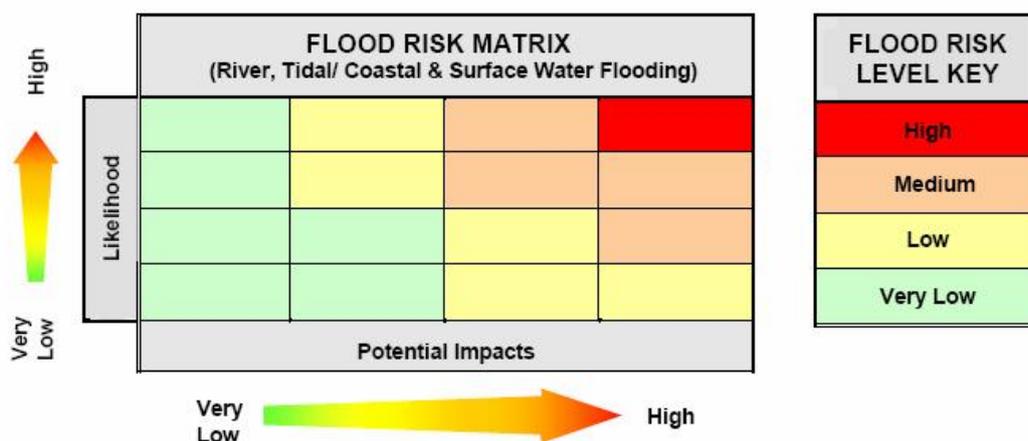
5.2. Flood Guidance Statements and Flood Warnings

The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) is a working partnership between the Environment Agency (EA) and the Met Office. Flood Guidance Statements (FGS) are issued by the FFC to Category 1 and 2 responders, government departments, the EA and the Met Office.

Since October 2011 the FGS have been updated to incorporate information from the Extreme Rainfall Alert (ERA) and will now cover all natural sources of flooding with improved surface water flood forecasts. The Flood Guidance Statements now includes:

- New groundwater flood risk assessments
- Surface water, river and coastal risk assessments
- Removal of the ERA reference
- Visual changes to the maps used to improve visibility

The FGS determines the flood risk based on an assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of flooding. This table is supported by a key to the potential impacts and a corresponding public advice section for each level of risk (see table on the next page)



An amber warning (medium risk) in the Flooding Guidance Statement is relevant to organisations within the Borough Resilience Forum area as this triggers a teleconference between Category 1 responders to review the FGS & weather forecast (see the Multi-agency Flood plan for further information).

The Environment Agency is responsible for issuing warnings relating to flooding. Further information on Flood Warnings can be found in the Multi-agency Flood Plan for Merton.

5.3. Met Office and Department of Health Cold Weather Alert Service

The cold weather alert service will operate between the 1st November and the 31st March in association with the Department of Health. The system is based on the Heat Health alert system and originates from the Cold Weather Plan for England. The plan can be found on the [Department of Health](#) website.

There are 4 levels of response outlined in the plan which aims to raise public awareness and triggers action in those in contact with those most at risk. The alert levels are based on either of two measures – low temperatures or widespread ice or heavy snow. In the later the alert would be accompanied by a NSWWS warning or alert as appropriate. The plan outlines actions that should be taken at each alert stage by:

- Individuals, families and carers
- Community groups and voluntary sector organisations
- NHS, social care and other community staff
- Health, social care and local authority organisations
- The national level

The decision to issue a level 4 alert at national level is taken in light of a cross-government assessment of weather conditions coordinated by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

ALERTS	CRITERIA
Level 1: Winter preparedness programme	1 st November to 31 st March, social and healthcare services need to ensure that they are prepared for severe winter weather.
Level 2: Alert and readiness	Met Office forecast of 2–3 days notice of a 60 % chance of a mean temperature of 2°C for at least 48 hours, in one or

	more defined geographical areas, with 60% confidence, and/or widespread ice and heavy snow is forecast with the same confidence.
Level 3: Severe weather action	The Met Office confirms that threshold temperatures have been reached.
Level 4: Emergency Exceptionally severe weather or threshold temperatures breached for six or more days	Many parts of the country are experiencing exceptionally severe weather and the conditions are affecting critical services. Conditions are likely to have significant impacts not only on health, but also on other sectors and critical infrastructure.

At the commencement of the Cold Weather Plan period, representatives from CSF and Adult Social care will meet with the Director of Public Health to discuss preparations for the season.

5.4. Met Office and Department of Health Heat Health Watch

A **Heat-Health Watch** system operates in England and Wales from 1st June to 15th September each year.

The Heat-Health Watch system comprises four levels of response based upon threshold maximum daytime and minimum night-time temperatures. These thresholds vary by region, but an average threshold temperature is 32°C by day and 18°C overnight.

ALERTS	CRITERIA
Level 0: Long term planning	All year
Level 1: Summer preparedness	1 June to 15 September, social and healthcare services need to ensure that they are prepared for heatwaves.
Level 2: Alert and readiness	Met Office forecast of 2–3 days notice of a 60 % chance of temperatures reaching 32 deg C during the night and not going below 18°C at night in London for at least two consecutive days.
Level 3: Heatwave action	The Met Office confirms that threshold temperatures have been reached.
Level 4: Emergency four or more days in two or more regions	The heatwave is so severe and/or prolonged that its effects extend outside health and social care, and/or where the integrity of health and social care systems is threatened. Illness and death may occur among both the healthy and high risk groups

As this is a health related matter, the response will be lead by the Director of Public Health. The NHS / Public Health England Heatwave plan details the actions that the Director of Public Health and commissioners of health and social care are expected to take during this period.

5.4.1. Level 1 – Summer preparedness

- Prior to the commencement of the Heat Health Watch period, the Director of Public Health, the Civil Contingencies Adviser, representatives from the CSF and Adult Social Care will meet with partners from the local health economy to discuss preparations for

the season.

5.4.2. Level 2 – Alert and Readiness

- DPH to circulate the alert/warning to nominated officers using the “Warnings & Weekly” distribution list and the “Warnings Other” distribution list.
- DPH to Monitor the weather and any further communications from the Met Office; these could be warnings/alerts or an email from the Met Officer Advisor (Civil Contingencies).
- Alert the Director of Community and Housing and agree further actions

6. Drought Restrictions

There are no official drought warning alerts. Information on drought status would be communicated via Thames Water and the EA directly to the affected areas/regions and via the Local Resilience Forum (London LRF). The EA have a drought plan for the UK and release a monthly situation report on water levels which can be found here <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/127606.aspx>

There are four stages to a drought each with different restrictions on water use. In the early stages Thames Water and the EA will encourage the public and businesses to conserve water through publicity campaigns and other communication.

1. **Temporary hosepipe ban:** This is a ban which water companies can invoke on their own without authorisation from another body as long as they feel they are experiencing or might experience a water shortage. The EA has the power to restrict or ban agricultural spray irrigation if necessary.
2. **Drought permit:** This must be granted by the EA and allows a company to take water from a specific source or to modify or suspend conditions in their abstraction licences.
3. **Drought orders:** These are granted by the Secretary of State on the application of the EA or water company. A drought order can prohibit or restrict the uses of water.
4. **Emergency drought order:** these are granted by the Secretary of State and allow water companies complete discretion over the use of water and authorises the implementation of standpipes and water tanks.

Drought Levels	EA and water company activities	Possible Restrictions	Borough activities
Level 1: No drought	Routine activities to increase security and sustainability of water supplies.	None	As 'normal'
Level 2: Drought developing	Enhanced sharing of information on water resources. Promotion of water saving message. Regular review of supply and demand situation.	Using a hose pipe to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water a garden • clean a private motor-vehicle • water plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises • clean a private leisure boat • draw water for domestic recreational use • fill or maintain a domestic pond • clean walls, or windows, of domestic premises • clean paths or patios • clean other artificial outdoor surfaces And: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool • filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain 	Include drought on the agenda of the EPG and the BRF Consideration of own and public water resource use and possible conservation options. Refresh familiarity with London and, where applicable, regional drought plans.
Level 3: Drought	As above, plus: Actions as set out in the relevant water company's drought plan including but not limited to implementation of a Temporary Use Ban (TUB) and an increase in public communications to promote the water conservation message.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, by hosepipe, sprinkler or other similar apparatus, gardens (other than market gardens), including lawns, verges, other landscaped areas, allotments, parks, or any natural or artificial surfaces used for sport or recreation • Filling of privately owned swimming pools, other than: pools designed for a programme of medical treatment or where necessary during their construction • filling of ornamental ponds other than fish ponds and wildlife garden ponds • the operation of mechanical vehicle washers, whether automatic or not • the washing of road vehicles, boats, railway rolling stock or aircraft except for safety or hygiene reasons • the cleaning of the exterior of buildings, except 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene special BRF meeting. • Consideration of strategic risks and possible mitigation in order to deliver strategic objectives. • Protect life. • Protect health, safety and welfare. • Promote public confidence through communication and engagement. • To consider the potential for community tension.

		<p>windows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cleaning of windows by hosepipe, sprinkler or similar apparatus • the cleaning of industrial premises or plant except for safety or hygiene reasons • the operation of ornamental fountains or cascades, including those where water is recycled the operation, in relation to any building or other premises, of any cistern which flushes automatically, during any period when those premises are wholly or substantially un-occupied. 	
Level 4: Severe drought	<p>Work with central, regional and local government to implement supply and demand management options. See relevant drought plan for detail.</p> <p>The Water Resources Act 1991 defines the process by which Water Companies can apply to Defra for an Emergency Drought Order (EDO) as a last resort to manage limited supplies when all other demand management and supply enhancement possibilities have been exhausted.</p>	<p>Water companies can restrict water in any way the deem necessary this can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standpipes, water tankers and bowsers - supplies to homes would be shut off and people would have to collect water from standpipes in the street • Rota cuts - supplies to homes and businesses would be cut off at certain times of the day, such as for eight hours at a time 	<p>Consideration of strategic risks and mitigating actions which should be carried out in line with delivering the strategic objectives as set out above.</p> <p>Consideration of recovery issues.</p>
Level 2: Recovering from drought	<p>Cautious relaxation of water restrictions in line with drought plans/risks.</p> <p>Implementation of actions to facilitate a return to service as normal.</p> <p>Identification and documentation of learning.</p>		
Level 1: No drought	<p>Implantation of learning.</p> <p>Update of drought plans as applicable.</p>		Review drought plans

The Thames Water timeline for these measures is displayed below:

Measure	Time to implement (weeks)			
Media Campaign	1			
Hosepipe / sprinkler ban		2		
Non Essential Use drought order / drought permit			10	
Emergency Drought Order				10
Elapsed time	1	3	13	23

In terms of Emergency Drought Orders the [Thames Water Drought Plan](#) states that —the aim of all preceding supply and demand side measures is to mitigate the need to resort to Level 4 Emergency restrictions. It would only be in the most extreme situation that such extreme actions may be needed.

Thames Water has additional measures to avert a level 4 restriction. The main measures are listed below, additional measures can be found in the Thames Water Drought Plan (pages 77–78).

- Reducing the mains water pressure
- Carrying out further leakage control work
- Restricting supplies to large commercial users

The option of reducing mains water pressure would have a significant impact on the Borough given the number of high rise buildings.

The Thames Water decision process for Drought permits is outlined in the Thames Water Drought Plan – Annex D.

7. On-Street Services

Between the 1st November and the 31st March, the Winter Maintenance Plan is activated. This plan details the actions to be taken, and the gritting routes to be used, in respect of Council roads in the event of severe weather. On-Street Services receive enhanced weather forecasts via the Met Office to assist in the determining of appropriate highway winter maintenance.

8. Met Office Hazard Management Tool

The hazard management tool is a Met Office system which is available to Cat 1 & 2 providers. During a severe weather incident the hazard manager systems allows for a visual presentation of weather through an interactive map with direct access to FGS, CHEMET (chemical metrological) event maps, weather warnings, infrared satellite, visible satellite, radar rainfall, lightning sites, rainfall accumulation levels, wind speeds and forecasts.

9. Vulnerable People

9.1. Definition of “vulnerable”

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) considers vulnerable people as those “that are less able to help themselves in the circumstances of an emergency”¹. In broad terms a vulnerable person is someone who would, in the event of a major incident, need either:

- a) Special assistance to remain safe in their own home; or
- b) Special assistance in preparing for, during and following an evacuation.

The table below gives an indication of the groups that could be vulnerable in relation to a specified hazard.

HAZARD →	General Evacuation	Cold Weather	Heatwave	Flood	Drought	Flu Pandemic	Power Outages	Fuel Shortage	Go in, stay in, tune in
VULNERABLE GROUPS ↓									
RESPONSIBLE DEPT.	LA	PCT	PCT	LA	LA	PCT	LA	LA	LA
Elderly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mobility Impaired	✓			✓			✓		
Visually Impaired	✓			✓					
Hearing Impaired	✓			✓					✓
People with Medical Conditions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
People with Mental Health Problems	✓								
Children	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
People with learning disabilities	✓			✓		✓			✓
Pregnant Women	✓		✓	✓		✓			
Tourists	✓			✓		✓			✓
Prisoners	✓			✓		✓			

¹ Paragraph 5.99, Emergency Preparedness – Guidance on Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, its associated Regulations and non-statutory arrangements.

9.2. Identification of vulnerable during an emergency

The Local Authority, NHS providers, independent providers and voluntary organisations all hold data on vulnerable people in the community. The CCS states “All of these service providers may have a role to play in identifying vulnerable people and providing for their needs in emergencies²”.

Identification of the vulnerable will be discussed as part of the CMT and/or the BRF discussions.

² CCS guidance - Identifying People Who Are Vulnerable in a Crisis

Emergency Planning Contacts

Sarah Chittock
Civil Contingencies Adviser
020 8545 3476
Sarah.Chittock@merton.gov.uk

Governance

This plan will be agreed with the LBM Environment & Regeneration department representative and then by the BRF.

Version Control

This plan is regularly reviewed and updated as and when necessary. It will be reviewed no less than annually.

Version	Date of change	Amendments	Responsible Officer
V1	01/17	Original version (new format)	Sarah Chittock