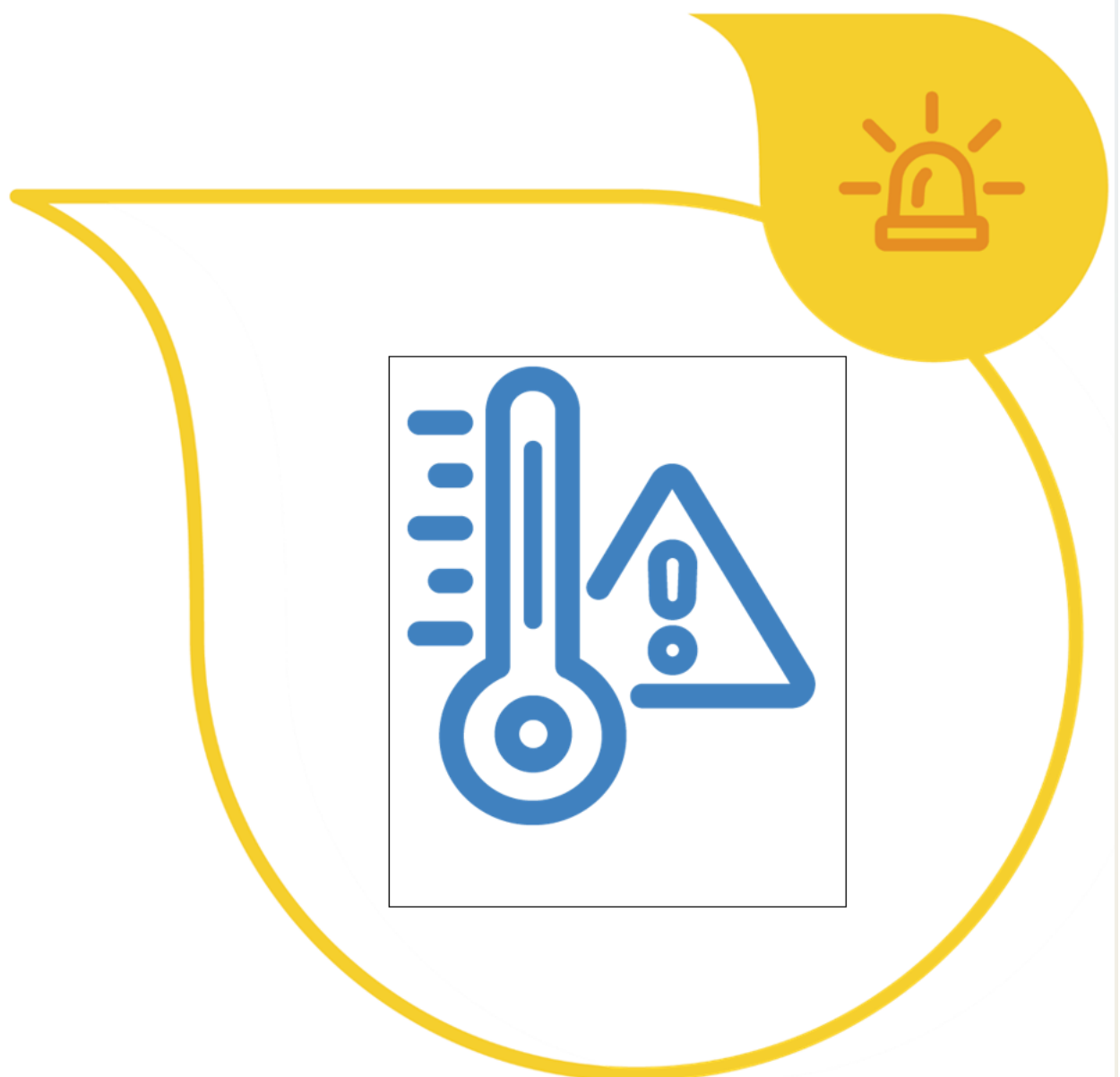


# Severe Weather

## Risk overview





# Risk Severe Weather

<b>Risk Lead</b>	<p>The lead agency in Lincolnshire for severe weather events will vary depending on the type and impacts of the weather but may include Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire &amp; Rescue, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council and East Midlands Ambulance Service.</p>
<b>Risk Descriptor</b>	<p>The Government assesses the risk from four main types of severe weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storms and gales with damaging wind speeds and possible lightning;</li> <li>• Low (sub-zero) temperatures and heavy snow for prolonged periods;</li> <li>• Heatwaves with high temperatures lasting several weeks, harming peoples' health; and</li> <li>• Drought as a result of a lack of rainfall over several years, leading to water shortages.</li> </ul> <p>The flat nature of Lincolnshire's landscape and the widely spread population mean that weather can have a greater impact on the county than other areas of the country. Our reliance on the road network to go about our daily lives becomes evident when it is disrupted by severe weather events.</p> <p>There is nothing we can do at a local level to reduce the likelihood of severe weather events; however we can be prepared for these events in order to stay safe and maintain essential services.</p>
<b>How Prepared Are You?</b>	
<b>How to prepare for the risk</b>	<p>Weather warnings, forecasts and general advice about how to prepare for severe weather can be found on the Met Office website or using the links below.</p> <p><a href="#">WeatherReady</a> <a href="#">UK Weather Warnings</a></p> <p><b>Find out how to prepare for an emergency</b> and download a flood plan here: <a href="#">Flood Plan - Lincolnshire Resilience Forum</a></p> <p>Weather warnings should be monitored and in particular, the public should look out for information on named storms. You should listen to weather forecasts and heed any warnings of extreme weather. The Met Office provides a wide range of forecasts and warnings to help you make informed decisions about your day to day activities. Visit <a href="https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/">https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/</a> or download their app.</p> <p>Arrange suitable home and contents insurance to protect your belongings.</p>

	<p>The Met Office in association with UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) issue 'Heat Health Alerts' between 1 June and 15 September if temperatures are expected to rise significantly. The service acts as an early warning system forewarning of periods of high temperatures, which may affect the health of the public. For the public, the Met Office issues Extreme Heat weather warning as part of its service.</p> <p>Between 1 November and 31 March, 'Cold Weather Alerts' are issued when heavy snow or widespread ice is forecast and also when particularly cold temperatures are expected for 2 days or more. Thresholds have been developed to trigger an alert when severe cold weather is likely to significantly affect people's health. The public should be aware of any severe weather warnings issued by the Met Office for snow and ice.</p>
<p><b>How to respond to the risk</b></p>	<p>Plan any journeys or activities with the weather in mind.*</p> <p>If you have to travel in severe weather make sure you have adequate clothing and emergency supplies in your vehicle.</p> <p>The 24/7 Met Office Weather Desk can offer more information prior or during severe weather: 0370 900 0100.</p>
<p><b>How to recover from the risk</b></p>	<p>Contact your insurance company if your home or belongings are damaged; they should help you find local contractors to complete repairs and help you replace items that are covered by your insurance plan.</p> <p>If you rent your property, speak to your landlord to make sure they're aware of any damage to the property that they need to repair. Contact your family, relatives and friends so that they know that you are ok. If they are able to and it's safe to do so, ask them to help you clean up your home or garden.</p>
<p><b>How prepared is your family?</b></p>	<p>Would every member of your family or extended family know what to do in the event of severe weather, such as heavy snow/ ice or extreme heat?</p> <p>Follow the prepare suggestions and make sure everyone knows what to do and where to go.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charge your mobile phones.</li> <li>• Ensure that you have a 'grab bag' of essential items, including your current medication, in case you need to evacuate your home.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What can you do to support your Community?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identify neighbours who may need assistance</b> or who may be able to provide assistance to you, in case of evacuation</li> <li>• <b>Join or start an Emergency Community Group</b> –<u>Resilient Communities Programme - Lincolnshire Resilience Forum</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Make sure that any vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe</b> and help them make arrangements for any repairs.</p>

	<p>If your property has been flooded and you are re-insuring, you can ask if your property is eligible for <a href="#">Flood Re</a> cover.</p>
<p><b>How Prepared is your business?</b></p>	<p>Learn more about Business Continuity. You can check how prepared your business is using the Government's <a href="#">Business Continuity Management Toolkit</a> (569 KB)</p> <p>Make sure you have suitable business insurance, the <a href="#">Association of British Insurers</a> provides useful advice and information.</p> <p>Another useful reference is the Business Continuity Institute <a href="#">What is Business Continuity?   BCI</a></p> <p>Consider communicating with local businesses about your plans and how you could support each other.</p>
<p><b>What are the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum doing to prepare for this risk?</b></p>	<p>The LRF work together to plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of multi-agency plans to manage severe weather events;</li> <li>• Consideration of weather forecasts prior to any large events in the county;</li> <li>• Receiving and distributing early notifications of severe weather;</li> <li>• Severe weather planning and response – local and central government work with infrastructure operators and emergency responders to develop response plans to deal with potential damage and restore utilities and travel routes as quickly as possible;</li> <li>• Drought planning – water companies have a statutory duty to plan for drought. Plans include a range of actions to manage the supply and demand of water. The Environment Agency also has a framework which sets out how they work with government, water companies and others to manage water resources during a drought;</li> </ul>

For further information please see the LRF website: [www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org](http://www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org)