

Emergency Planning Information – from 01 January 2024 to September 2024

1. The Permanent fixed Post of Senior Emergency Planning Officer recruitment has been agreed and a Job specification in the new Medpay format is being created I have noted over the last 6 months the Kent Resilience Team and Kent County Council having great difficulty recruiting to their experienced Senior posts.
2. The Medway Council Heatwave Emergency Plan was researched and re-written to cover seasons from 1 June– 15 September 2024. The team will assist the Consultant Public Health in developing the Cold Weather Plan for 1 November 2024 – 31 March 2025. These plans are refreshed each season to reflect the arrangements set out in the National NHS & UK Health Security Agency National Emergency Plans.
3. A live test was conducted on the alerting systems that would be used in the event of an external emergency associated with an emergency at the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) site on the Isle of Grain or BP Oil Terminal Grain. This test is carried out on an annual basis, last held on 11 July 2024.
4. As an upper Tier Authority Medway Council has, the duty of reviewing rewriting and testing elements of the Hazardous Pipeline Emergency Plan, Medway has worked hard to finalise this Plan alongside Kent County Council Emergency Planning Team and continues to monitor the ever changing list of utility companies that use this infrastructure.
5. The Emergency Planning team continues to monitor the Severe Weather Warnings and Alert Service, jointly run by the Meteorological Office and NHS/UK Health Security Agency, which advises Council services and voluntary organisations when trigger levels are met. To date response and action has been necessary on the following occasions: (As of 12 Dec 23)

Thunderstorms Storms/Wind	Cold/Snow	Rain	Heatwave
Storm Henk 02 Jan 24	03 Jan 24	04 Jan 24	21 Jun 24
19 Jan 24 (W)	05 Jan 24	25 Feb 24	24 Jun 24
Storm Isha 21 Jan 24	08 Jan 24	08 Feb 24	16 Jul 24
Storm Jocelyn 22-25 Jan (W)	11 Jan 24	15 July 24	26 Jul 24
Storm Kathleen 06 Apr 24	19 Jan 24	19 July 24	09 Aug 24
01 May 24 (TS)			12 Aug 24
06 May 24 (TS)			25 Aug 24
21 May 24 (TS)			30 Aug 24
29 July 24 (TS)			
Storm Lilian 22 Aug 24			
01 Sep 24 (TS)			

6. The Kent Resilience Forum has carried out a review which includes duties of the Kent Resilience Team. As a result, the training programme has less opportunities in which Council Officers can attend. However, the Emergency Planning Team has arranged for senior officers from across the Council to attend the following multi-agency training event:
 - Multi Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC) Course – April 24 (2 Officers).
 - Multi Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC) Course – April 25 (2 Officers).
 - Oil Pollution Officer Course to be delivered by the Maritime Coastguard Agency 10 Dec 24 for 5 officers.
 - Oil Pollution Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCAT) commissioned for 5 Officers 2024 or as weather conditions allow.
7. The Emergency Planning team has provided additional internal training and represented Medway Council at the following Exercise:
 - MCG Control Centre Grain Siren & Rapid Reach – July 24
 - Identification and understanding the Asian Hornet and what to do if there is any activity reported within Medway.
8. The Emergency Planning Team has also added officers/expertise to other organisations Critical Training Exercises where the officers directly contributed to:
 - Ex Melville, Kent wide Hospital Evacuation Ex, 24 April 23.
 - Ex Bute, Kent Multi Agency Workshop discussing the forthcoming Entry & Exit Scheme due to be launched Nov 24.
9. The Emergency Planning team has continued to represent the Council on 19 separate standing Kent Resilience Forums (KRF) groups and task and finish groups, which are established as and when necessary, to undertake specific projects. These Groups are consolidated by means of a KRF Delivery Groups Day which incorporates the three-core function Groups, Plans and capabilities, Risk and Exercise & Training.
10. Throughout the year the Team has responded to a number (21) of flood alerts ranging from:
 - Surface Water – 11 events.
 - Coastal – 5 events.
 - Ground – 5 sustained events.
11. The Team has contributed to the following emergency plans/reports:
 - Medway Council Major Emergency Plan (MEP)
 - Kent Risk Workshop
 - Pan Kent Strategic Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.
 - Mass Fatalities Plan. (Continual Development)

12. Other Projects the Team has been involved with are:
 - Avian Flu Monitoring (Animal Health)
 - Department for Transport planned works to the SS Montgomery (anomaly investigation prior to removal of the visible mast structure). Continuing
 - National Cooper fixed Telecommunication Line shutoff (Jan 2026)
 - Council readiness for Counter Terrorism Threat Level changes and Incidents including passing information to relevant managers about the imminent "Martyns Law (This law may affect how we protect public buildings, spaces and all Events). Continuing
 - The Monitoring of Animal Diseases such as:
 - Avian Flu.
 - Assistance with monitoring Human Disease such as:
 - Mpox
 - The Review and rewrite of the COMAH External Emergency Plans for Grain LNG Terminal and BP Oil Terminal (For Completion end of Dec 24 with a Confirmation Exercise Ex Combine 2025 to be held April 25).
13. Physical response to a wide range of issues such as coordinating Council Actions/Resources at the following Incidents:
 - Power Outage to parts of the Peninsular 02 Jan 24.
 - Large Sheen Oil Pollution Report on the Tidal River Medway 13 Jan 24
 - Potential Water disruption to areas of Medway due to a large watermain burst 24 Jan 24
 - Dead Dolphin above the low water mark reported near All Hallows 27 Mar 24.
 - Gas Leak reported in a Commercial property in Rochester High Street 15 Apr 24.
 - Civil Disorder at Rochester with potential in Chatham and Gillingham Highstreets 6 Aug 24.
 - Reports of a Bomb found at Woodland Road Allotments 9 Sep 24
14. Throughout the year the Team has responded to a number (31) of flood alerts ranging from:
 - Surface Water – 20 events.
 - Coastal – 10 events.
 - Ground – 1 sustained event.