



# Civil Emergency Risk Assessment



***Epping Forest District is a very safe place to live and work.***

However, Epping Forest District Council is required under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to publish an assessment of risk relating to civil emergencies and to use that assessment as a basis for emergency planning.

The way in which risk is assessed follows guidelines published by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, some of which does not apply to Epping Forest. For example, Epping is most unlikely to be affected by a tidal surge.

The top five civil emergency risks across the Epping District are;

1. **Flash flooding.** Flash flooding is usually caused by sudden localised torrential downpours that overload drainage systems and/or rain falling on saturated ground. Flash flooding is impossible to predict in terms of location and intensity therefore property owners and tenants are strongly urged to invest in some form of flood defences.

**Be Prepared**  
It is the responsibility of property owners to protect their property against flooding. If there is a risk to **life** or property, dial 999 but be aware that your call will be prioritised by the emergency services.

2. **Severe weather.** The UK is regularly affected by weather systems that result in high winds, heavy rain, cold periods and hot spells. Fortunately weather forecasting is much more accurate than ever before and residents are advised to monitor forecasts and plan accordingly. Practical measures are suggested such as avoiding unnecessary travel, putting together an emergency bag/box and keeping an eye on vulnerable neighbours.

3. **Major Transport Incident.** The M25, M11 and A414 all cross Epping District and being key transport routes there is a elevated risk of a major transport incident. However, it is rare for a transport incident to affect the District for more than a day but residents are advised to monitor the media and plan journeys accordingly. Be aware that delays can be sudden and severe so carrying spare clothing, some food and drink is advisable especially if driver or passengers have a medical condition.

4. **Human disease.** The National Risk register identifies Pandemic Flu as one of the top risks across the country. Although any response to an outbreak would be led by the Health agencies, Epping Forest District Council would support the response in whatever way possible. Should there be an outbreak, the public would be advised to take action at that time.

5. **Commercial Aircraft Accident.** Epping Forest District lies underneath the flight paths of Stansted, Heathrow and London City Airports and as such there is a slight increase in risk of an accident over an urban area. However, the risk is extremely low.



**The Council's Role**  
Epping Forest District Council works with partner agencies including the Police, Fire Service, Health Services, Environment Agency and many others to prepare for civil emergencies. The principal response role for the District Council is to provide shelter in the event of large scale evacuations. The Council may also lead on post incident recovery.