



**2025 Annual Report
of the Cambridgeshire
and Peterborough Local
Resilience Forum (CPLRF)**



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Welcome from CPLRF Chair Matt Gladstone



From a chemical spill at Cambridge University to a vehicle fire in a hospital multistorey car park and the Huntingdon rail incident, which needed an immediate, large scale, multi-agency response to save lives, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF) has faced many challenges in the past year.

Our multi-agency partnership is made up of police, fire and ambulance services, local authorities, health services, the military, Environment Agency and other supporting agencies. Our priority is saving lives and protecting communities and we continue to work collaboratively to prepare for major incidents, respond to them effectively when they happen and help our communities recover in their aftermath.

We continue to plan for a wide range of risks faced by our communities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from large area power outages and flooding to malicious attacks and accidents on the transport networks.



The National Risk Register

(<https://tinyurl.com/5xyv38m5>)



Community Risk Register

(<https://tinyurl.com/37e2k5wu>)

The **National Risk Register** and our local **Community risk register** outline the situations most likely to happen in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, enabling us to plan in advance for emergencies and deal with incidents as they arise. Our ability to deliver this duty will always be enhanced by the strength of our local partnership relationships.

This 2025 annual report outlines the incidents and challenges we have faced over the past year. We have also included a review of our ongoing work and our plans for the next 12 months.

We have responded to many live operational incidents in the past year including pollution in a watercourse near Huntingdon, a crash on the Guided Busway near Cambridge and a chemical spill in a laboratory, as detailed further in this document.

We have also held 42 live and tabletop exercises and training opportunities for our member and partner organisations between January 2025 and December 2025. These events allowed us to test our emergency plans to deal with a wide range of situations including severe weather, health pandemics, malicious attacks and chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and explosives (CBRNe) incidents to help our agencies work together collaboratively and efficiently to mitigate risk.

We continue to strengthen our links with the voluntary and community sector who play a vital role in emergency preparedness. In 2026 we will be launching a new Community Resilience Working Group to bring a renewed focus on helping local communities be better prepared.

Keeping residents safe, saving lives and protecting our communities will always be the main focus of our collaborative multi-agency work. Thank you to all our emergency responders and volunteers for working together to keep Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe for all our residents, business and communities.

Matt Gladstone
Strategic Chair of CPLRF

What we do

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a multi-agency partnership, working to help communities be better prepared for major emergencies.

CPLRF identifies and mitigates risks through planning and preparing in order to respond effectively when major civil emergencies occur.

CPLRF:

- Assesses risks that might affect our communities.
- Develops plans to respond to and mitigate against different emergencies.
- Organises live play (real life scenario) and tabletop (office-based) exercises to test our plans.

- Provides training to those who would be part of the emergency response.
- Provides advice, information and assistance to the public, businesses and voluntary organisations on emergency preparedness.
- Works collaboratively to ensure all agencies are effectively working together for the benefit of the communities we serve across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Organisations are split into two categories:

Category 1 responders (first to be called to emergencies).

Category 2 responders (organisations that support Category 1 responders by sharing information, advice and guidance on their area of expertise - known as the 'co-operating bodies').

Category 1 responders

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service



Cambridgeshire Constabulary



East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust



Cambridgeshire County Council



Peterborough City Council



Cambridge City Council



East Cambridgeshire District Council



Fenland District Council



Huntingdonshire District Council



South Cambridgeshire District Council



Environment Agency



NHS Central East Integrated Care Board



British Transport Police



NHS England East of England



Category 1 responders (continued)

North West Anglia NHS
Foundation Trust



Royal Papworth
Hospital



Cambridge University
Hospitals NHS
Foundation Trust



Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough
NHS Foundation Trust



Category 2 responders

UK Power
Networks



National
Grid PLC



CADENT



Anglian Water



Cambridge
Water



BT



Govia ThamesLink
Railway



Network
Rail



Greater Anglia
Railways



LNER (London
North Eastern Railway)



National
Highways



Cambridge
International Airport



Harbour
Authorities



Health and Safety
Executive



Met Office

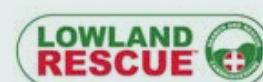


Voluntary
Community
Sector
agencies
working
closely
with CPLRF

Beds & Cambs 4X4
Response



Cambridgeshire Search
and Rescue (CamSAR)



British Red
Cross



Our vision

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF) was created on the passing of the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) which requires organisations to routinely work together to prepare Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for emergencies.



The strategic vision of CPLRF is:

"To create a safer Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by having well-trained, well-equipped, and well-led people who can effectively, efficiently and legitimately apply a risk-based approach to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents, (including major ones), that have the potential to adversely affect situation-normal."

How we operate

CPLRF Strategic Board brings together representatives from the most senior level of management across each responder agency. Together they agree on a joint understanding of risk, coordination, information sharing and cooperation, to ensure the multi-agency response and recovery is:

- pre-planned;
- tested to mitigate risks;

- community-focused;
- cost-effective;
- able to adapt to changing situations and environments.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) also operates at the strategic level, bringing together local health and social care partners.

The Tactical Business Group (TBG) reports into the Strategic Board and oversees the partnership working groups and task and finish groups.

Chair ► Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum

CPLRF Strategic Board

CP Local Health Resilience Partnership - Executive

CPLRF Tactical Business Group

CP Local Health Resilience Partnership Working Group

The TBG is supported by the workstreams managed in the CPLRF Working Groups

Working Groups and Task and Finish Groups

- Community Risk Management
- Training and Exercise
- Lessons Identified
- Warning and Informing

- Community Resilience and Voluntary Sector
- Communications Systems
- RAAC Plank Management
- County Safety Advisory

- Cyber Resilience
- Severe Weather
- Climate Change, Sustainability and Future Risk

Voluntary sector and community resilience

Community resilience is a crucial cog in the wheel of the emergency planning process.

Parish and town councils, local community groups and voluntary sector organisations often know who the vulnerable people are in their communities who may need extra support when incidents occur. They can provide vital support by ensuring their residents know and understand what is happening, passing on key advice and guidance and feeding back key information from communities when incidents are ongoing.

In 2025, we focused on establishing the foundations for delivering community resilience work and strengthening collaboration with voluntary sector partners.

We recruited a new Risk and Resilience Officer who has been looking at how we can build upon our current community links and learning from other successful resilience initiatives across the UK.

We continue to work with Huntingdonshire District Council to establish more Community

Resilience Groups and Emergency Liaison Points. Work is ongoing to build upon our two initial pilot schemes in St Ives and Alconbury, with the intention of rolling the schemes out to other areas of the county in 2026.

We also plan to re-launch the Community Resilience Working Group in 2026, with representation from all partners, to explore opportunities both to enhance existing community resilience initiatives and introduce new ones.

The voluntary sector within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a wide variety of capabilities, resources and specialisms, some of which are not yet fully integrated into the CPLRF partnership. In late 2025, we focused on understanding this landscape and identifying opportunities to strengthen engagement. In 2026, our Risk and Resilience Officer will continue to meet with representatives from the sector to help develop clearer ways of working and improve how we engage with voluntary partners.



©Photo: Cambridgeshire ACRE

Incidents and Emergencies 2025

Here are just some of the incidents the CPLRF has responded to in 2025:



March 2025

Chemical spill, Cambridge.

Following the accidental spill of a hazardous substance within a research laboratory, causing minor injury to staff, specialist trained emergency responders were dispatched to the scene and a TCG convened. Detection, Identification, and Monitoring (DIM) of the site was undertaken to manage and mitigate any potential wider health impacts, whilst the clean-up and recovery processes were undertaken.



but spread to 11 caravans, the stables, other outbuildings, and vehicles. Two tactical coordinating groups (TCGs) were called to bring together police, fire crews, council officers and the Environment Agency to ensure residents were evacuated safely and the impact on the local community and the environment were minimised.



April 2025

Road Traffic Collision, the Guided Busway, Northstowe near Cambridge.

Police, fire, ambulance and an air ambulance crew were called to a serious road traffic accident involving a fire engine and two passenger buses on the Guided Busway at Station Road, Northstowe. One person was taken to hospital with serious injuries and several other people were injured.

Fire at caravan site, Fen Road, Cambridge.

Forty-five firefighters were sent to tackle a large blaze that ripped through a caravan park in Fen Road, Chesterton, Cambridge. The fire started outside



May 2025

Fire in industrial unit, Mill Lane, Whittlesford.

Ten fire engines, two aerial appliances, two water carriers and the incident command vehicle attended a large fire in an industrial building in the early hours of the morning.

At its height, 70 firefighters from Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Essex were tackling the blaze.

A TCG was called to bring together tactical commanders from police, fire, council, and the Environment Agency to respond to the incident. Residents in the vicinity were urged to keep their windows and doors closed because of the smoke.



August 2025

Field fire, Hinton Way, Great Shelford.

Local residents were evacuated from nearby homes when a fire started in a field in Great Shelford that threatened to spread into a residential area.



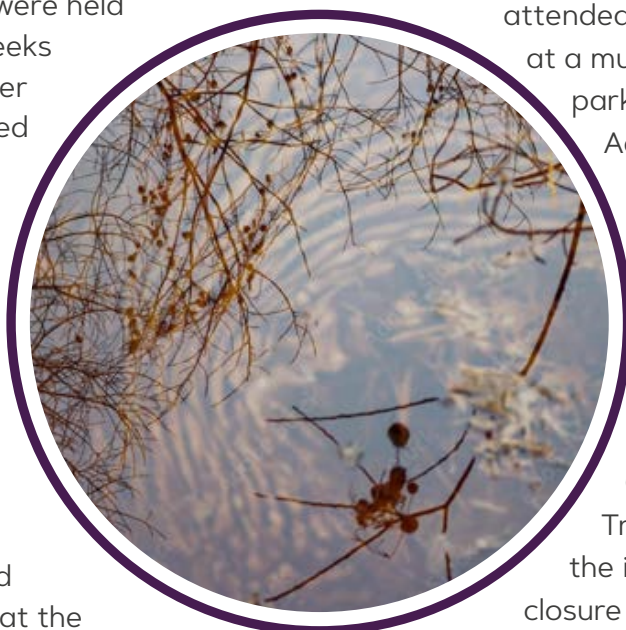
A Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) was called and the fire service, local authority, police and the Environment Agency worked together to ensure local residents were safe while the fire service brought the blaze under control and to deal with its aftermath to ensure the safety of the public.



October 2025

Suspected chemical release in waterway next to the B1043 Old North Road, Sawtry.

Anglian Water staff working on this watercourse were affected by unknown gases released from the water. Several people were taken to hospital for treatment and testing. TCG meetings were held over several weeks to try to uncover what had caused the reaction and whether any toxic substances had been discharged into the water. Specialist testing was undertaken and it is believed that the toxic gases were naturally generated and not as a result of pollutants in the watercourse. Affected staff made a quick and full recovery.



November 2025

Multiple stabbing incident on a train on the East Coast Main Line between Peterborough and Huntingdon.

Both Strategic Coordinating Groups and Tactical Coordinating Groups were convened to coordinate the multi-agency response required for this incident along with a subsequent Recovery Coordinating Group (RCG).

Because legal proceedings are active, we cannot print more details at this time. A man has been charged with the attempted murders of 10 people and is due to stand trial in October 2026.



December 2025

Multi-storey car park fire, Addenbrookes Hospital Bio-Medical Campus, Cambridge.

Twelve fire crews from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue attended a large fire at a multi-storey car park within the Addenbrookes Hospital Bio-Medical Campus, temporarily trapping 400 cars inside the affected building. Strategic, Tactical and Recovery co-ordination were called, bringing together fire, police, the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust and local authorities to deal with the incident which led to the temporary closure of the car park and the loss of 1,000 parking spaces for staff, patients and visitors. The fire service said the fire was caused by a fault in a diesel car and deemed the blaze to be accidental.



Our achievements

In the past year we have worked to expand and develop opportunities for all our partners to improve their understanding of each other's organisations, streamline day-to-day working practices and make it easier for us to work collaboratively when there is an emergency. We have also continued to review and refine what we offer to partners to improve our collective resilience.

CPLRF Briefing Series

In 2025, our partners helped us to put together five briefing series sessions to give member organisations a better understanding of how other agencies work to improve collaboration and communication in their everyday work and in times of crisis and emergency.

Our Voluntary Sector partners (British Red Cross, CAMSAR and 4X4) organised a successful session in February with presentations from operational voluntary sector response colleagues, our local pilot areas for Emergency Liaison Points (ELP) and our wider voluntary sector partners. As a result, we plan to formalise our Community Resilience Planning into 2026 and beyond.

The Environment Agency and relevant partners held a session on responding to the flooding risk and we also held a briefing on the JESIP principles of working together in times of emergency.

There was also an emergency services-led

briefing in July which looked at the lessons learned at Grenfell Tower. In 2026 we are planning to continue to develop and build upon the Briefing Series, holding six sessions over the 12 months alongside other training and exercise opportunities.

In December, local authority partners organised a briefing on devolution to explain to wider partners how the shift from a two-tier council system to larger unitary authorities will impact local emergency planning, resilience, and statutory responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Improving Communications

We employed our first communications officer to work with our partner organisations to improve multi-agency communications, expand our [www.cppprepared](http://www.cppprepared.org.uk) website, and put together useful tools like a Household Emergency Plan and a social media toolkit of messages to help the public understand the risks we face and encourage them to take action to mitigate against them.

Next year we plan to:

- Launch a new e-newsletter for partners to highlight training and exercise opportunities and share CPLRF news.
- Expand our work with the community and voluntary sector providing them with the communications tools for local residents including newsletter templates and briefing materials.



- Provide communications training to tactical and operational commanders to ensure we are communicating clearly and concisely with the public about emergency situations helping them to respond appropriately.



the links we have established within our communities.

In January, we held a Community Recovery Exercise to look at how we can improve our support for communities who are recovering from a major incident using a flooding incident scenario.

We supported the launch of the East of England Cat 2 Forum to bring together Category 2 organisations across the Eastern Region to see how we can better work together to share knowledge, skills and resources. We also supported the establishment of a national secretariat group with other LRFs to share learning and knowledge.

Improving Resources for Incident Management

ResilienceDirect (RD) is a secure, UK Cabinet Office approved live web platform designed for emergency responders - such as police, fire, ambulance, and local authorities.

It's set up to share information and enable CPLRF partners to collaborate in real-time during planning, response, and recovery phases. It acts as a digital hub for mapping, document sharing, and situational awareness to support multi-agency coordination during incidents.

We have updated our CPLRF area on RD to make it more accessible for partners to access the information they need. We are working with RD to offer more system training opportunities for partners next year.

Focus On Communities

In 2025 we continued to build upon

We also hosted a regional Cyber Resilience Event with the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre (ECRC) following a successful innovation funding bid from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Around 80 people from small to medium-sized businesses and faith groups attended the event which gave advice on how to prevent cyber attacks and improve cyber resilience.

Task And Finish Groups To Analyse Response

In 2025, in response to the evolving risk landscape nationally we set up several task and finish groups to look specifically at our response to national risks.

The C19 Debrief Recommendations Task and Finish Group examined lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic and focused on the progression of the pandemic plan. This work is ongoing and awaiting recommendations arising from the recent Tier 1 national pandemic exercise.



Testing our emergency plans

It is vital we are prepared for all types of serious or major emergency.

From prolonged power outages over large geographical areas to major flooding incidents, plane, rail or road crashes to global or national pandemics, we have plans ready to respond to a wide variety of different situations.



To ensure plans are effective in real life situations, every year all partner organisations take part in training and exercising to test our responses to a wide range of scenarios.

Sometimes these are tabletop discussion-based sessions in an office or meeting room where participants work through a simulated emergency or crisis. These tabletop events provide an opportunity to analyse procedures and identify areas for improvement. It allows agencies to come together and learn and refine our emergency responses in a challenging but safe environment.

CPLRF agencies also take part in live play exercises which reconstruct actual emergencies under safe conditions, testing plans in a more realistic and time-pressured situation including aircraft crashes, major fires and chemical and biological incidents.



Over the next four pages you can read about training and exercise events conducted in 2025.



January

Community Recovery Plan - Cambridgeshire County Council led an information sharing and tabletop exercise regarding the CPLRF Community Recovery Plan. This explored the important transition from the response phase into recovery from a major incident. The need to get 'community recovery' right cannot be underestimated as we have witnessed during recent high-profile tragedies (i.e The Grenfell Tower fire).



February

Multi-Agency Information Cell (MAIC) course - CPLRF hosted an inaugural MAIC manager course at Huntingdon Fire Station. Several partners were trained to be able to lead and manage a future MAIC in support of an incident response and recovery. MAICs are a specialised function within emergency planning and response, designed to gather, analyse, and disseminate information from multiple organisations to create a shared understanding of a crisis.

Voluntary Sector Briefing Day - CPLRF Voluntary Sector partners (including British Red Cross, 4x4 Response, CAMSAR) delivered an all-partner briefing session, sharing with statutory partners their invaluable capability and capacity to assist and enhance the management of an incident.

March

Debriefers CPD event – Organised by the police, this event aimed to give partners refresher training on how to deliver a structured debrief and gather learning, post- incident.

Newmarket Races – A tabletop exercise, including a marauding attacker and evacuation scenario were held for local authorities and emergency service agencies to test venue and partnership response plans.

April

Tactical Commander Development Day – This one-day session aimed to give CPLRF partners the chance to develop their skills and knowledge in commanding the tactical response to an emergency.

Pandemic tabletop exercise – Partners from health, police, fire, ambulance, local authorities and other agencies came together in a tabletop exercise to test our pandemic emergency plans in preparation for a major national exercise (Pegasus) later in the year.

May

JESIP Command training – This training ensures emergency services and partner agencies are given opportunities to practise effective joint working at all levels of command in response to major or complex incidents. The training aims to ensure those who perform the



role of strategic and tactical commanders understand and can utilise the key JESIP principles and models.

Flooding Matters Briefing Series

– Led by the Environment Agency, the Met Office and the Internal Drainage Board, this training aimed to give partners a greater understanding of flooding issues and the responsibilities of each agency.

Regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, explosive materials (CBRNe)

exercise – Health-led regional tabletop exercise at Cambridge University to test emergency responses to a CBRNe incident and examine potential impacts on pressure points within health services.

June

Health JESIP Commanders Development

Day – This training was specifically targeted at those leaders working within health services to develop their leadership skills when leading the emergency response for their organisation.

Strategic Commanders Development

Day – Peterborough City Council strategic commanders, who would be called upon to lead their organisation's emergency response at the highest level, took part in a development day.

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan – An opportunity for partners to better understand the plan and response to an incident involving a significant energy pipeline.





July

JESIP operational-level exercise – Partners who would be involved in the emergency services bronze response (operational commanders)

took part in a tabletop exercise to test how they would work together in highly-pressured incident scenarios including a water rescue, a building fire and a suspected chemical attack.

Grenfell briefing series – Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service hosted a briefing series for partners examining the lessons learned from the Grenfell Tower fire in London. More than 30 partners attended the half-day event which examined learning from and issues related to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Small plane crash – Police, fire, ambulance crews, local authorities and other agencies took part in a tabletop exercise at RAF Wittering to test plans to deal with a military aircraft crash.

Regional Category 2 Responders day – All Category 2 partners across the Eastern region were invited to this briefing series to help foster greater understanding between organisations and their capacity and capabilities in responding to emergencies.



August

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan exercise – Aimed at Category 1 and Category 2 responders, this tabletop exercise tested the CPLRF plans for dealing with an incident involving a major pipeline. This particular exercise centred on a pipeline explosion on a major road and the impacts on road users and neighbouring communities.

Flood Plan training – Aimed at tactical and operational responders to encourage them



to get to know the CPLRF flood plan better to ensure agencies are ready and prepared for a major flooding incident.



September

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNe) incident tabletop exercise – National tabletop exercise examining the plans in place to deal with a major incident. This exercise aimed to prepare emergency responders for the live play exercise later in the year.

Flood plan exercise – A tabletop exercise to test CPLRF's plans for a multi-agency response to a major flooding incident in the county.

Structured debriefer course – Emergency responders who are required to get involved in the structured debriefing process were given the opportunity to undertake training on what is required, including evidence gathering and evaluating performance in an emergency situation so lessons can be identified to improve processes and response in the future.

Pandemic national exercise (Pegasus)

– Partners from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough came together on six days over the Autumn period as part of a significant Tier 1 national emergency planning exercise to test plans for dealing with a pandemic. More than 100 tactical, strategic and operational commanders came together during the three separate phases, to take part in the tabletop exercise, linking in with regional structures and national government departments. The final full debrief is still awaited; however, this will assist in future local planning.

Major route disruption operation gridlock plan – Emergency responders came together to test emergency plans if there was gridlock on one of our major roads. The exercises examined the knock-on effects on local communities and tested CPLRF’s plan enabling refinements to be made to the plan content.



November

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNe) incident exercise

- Around 600 members of the emergency services, armed forces and national partner agencies took part in a simulated CBRNe incident in Papworth, Cambridgeshire.

Over two days, members of CPLRF joined colleagues from neighbouring areas responding to a complex, simulated CBRNe incident including a number of improvised explosive devices (IED) and the simulated release of hazardous materials to test joint working, emergency response and specialist response teams.

Cambridge Airport – A tabletop exercise at Cambridge Airport tested emergency plans to deal with a plane crash at the site. The exercise scenario involved an aircraft overshooting the runway and crashing into a quarry, causing pollution and loss of life.

Overdose Opioids – A tabletop exercise to examine how agencies would deal with an out-

of-hours situation where individuals become seriously ill through the use of illegal drugs. The exercise tested health and wider partners’ out-of-hours processes and plans.



COMAH training and exercise – Tabletop exercise to test plans to deal with an emergency at a Peterborough-based COMAH site. A COMAH site is a facility in the UK that stores or handles large quantities of hazardous industrial chemicals, which fall under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 2015. These regulations aim to prevent major accidents—such as fires, explosions, or toxic releases—and mitigate their impacts on people and the environment.

JESIP Commander training days - Strategic (Gold), Tactical (Silver) and Operational (Bronze) commanders came together for annual JESIP training. JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles) training is a mandatory framework in the UK designed to ensure responders work together effectively during major or complex incidents. It focuses on five core principles: Co-location, Communication, Coordination, Joint Understanding of Risk, and Shared Situational Awareness.

2026 and beyond

In 2026 we will launch our new business plan for 2027 to 2030, focusing on how we will adapt to the changing risk landscape.

We will expand our training and exercise programme including those risks we haven’t recently exercised. This will include both online and in-person tactical and strategic command training courses.

We will continue to develop our popular briefing series - bringing in more partner and

themed briefings, looking at areas such as flooding and communications, and civil unrest.

We will review our training and exercise programme and risks to see where we should focus our efforts for the next year.

We will also be expanding our links with the community and voluntary and faith sectors to help increase awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness in the wider community.



Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough Prepared



For the latest advice visit our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Prepared website www.cppprepared.org.uk

