

# The legal and policy framework for protecting infants in UK emergency planning

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## Civil Contingencies Act 2004

From:

being prepared to survive a nuclear attack from a foreign power

Civil Defence Act 1948

Civil Protection in Peacetime Act 1986

To:

risk-based planning for the UK

ELIZABETH II

c. 36



Civil Contingencies Act 2004

2004 CHAPTER 36

An Act to make provision about civil contingencies. [18th November 2004]



# What is an emergency?

Civil Contingencies Act, section 1(1):

- (a) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom,
- (b) an event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom, or
- (c) war, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom.



## Category 1 and 2 responders



# Responders' duties

Duties: Section 2(1)

- Assess the risk of an emergency occurring
- Assess the risk of an emergency requiring responder action
- Maintain plans for business continuity
- Maintain plans for dealing with the emergency
- Update plans in light of risk assessments
- Publish the assessments and plans as necessary
- Maintain plans for communicating about emergencies with the public



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# Local Resilience Fora

- Created by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005
- Brings together category 1 and necessary category 2 responders to create and maintain emergency plans through inter-agency co-operation



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# Local Health Resilience Partnerships

Created by the Health and Social Care Act 2012

Members:

- Directors of Public Health
- NHS England
- PHE
- Ambulance Services

Roles:

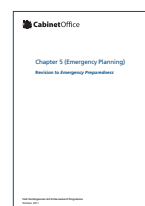
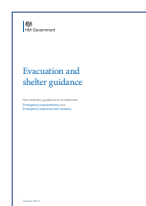
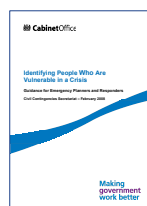
Decide on the local health-related emergency planning strategies

Contribute 'health input' to LRFs



## Devolved framework

- Some central/national guidance for LRFs to use
- National plans for national level emergencies
- LRFs are staffed by the people who will have an active role in emergency response
- Relationship building and developing a way of working to increase effectiveness in an emergency context
- Grounded in the local area = familiarity with local risk factors
- Plugged in to local services and capabilities
- "ordinary business in extraordinary circumstances"



Flexible legal framework that does not try to dictate actions taken locally in an emergency context

But – some issues will be the same for all areas, and central guidance or 'minimum requirements' might lift the burden of developing new plans







## National policy

 CabinetOffice

Chapter 5 (Emergency Planning)  
Revision to *Emergency Preparedness*

Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme  
October 2011

Chapter 5 creates an obligation to provide for vulnerable persons in emergency plans.

“people who are less able to help themselves in the circumstances of an emergency”

Focus on:

- Identifying and communicating with people with specific needs
- Communicating about emergencies to children

 CabinetOffice

Identifying People Who Are Vulnerable in a Crisis

Guidance for Emergency Planners and Responders  
Civil Contingencies Secretariat – February 2008

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## The emergency grab bag advice on LRF websites

Copy of your [Household Emergency Life-Saving Plan](#)

First aid kit and medication

Copies of important family documents in a waterproof bag

Prescription medication

Cash and Credit Cards

Car Keys

Toiletries and sanitary supplies

Mobile phone and charger

### Infant supplies

Spare clothes

A battery torch with spare batteries or a wind up torch

A battery radio with spare batteries or wind up radio

Bottled water and emergency food, enough for three days

### Childcare supplies or other special care items

Extra set of house and car keys



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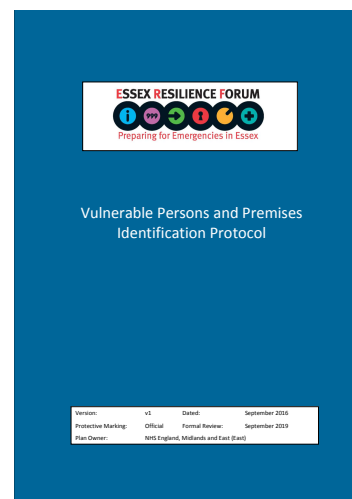
<http://cheshireresilience.org.uk/emergency-grab-bag/>

- **Generic information** – phrases such as “special items”, “infant supplies”, “children’s essentials”
- **Generic information with some specific pointers** – the generic phrases are qualified with some specific instructions such as “nappies, food”, “food, formula and drink”
- **Specific information** – phrases suggesting specific items that should be kept or brought such as “infant formula milk and disposable nappies and nappy sacks”, or “baby food”
- **No information provided** – no reference to children or infants needing anything different from any other person in an emergency

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## Vulnerable persons plans

Some plans specifically identify pregnant women and newborn babies as vulnerable groups



## Emergency plans to support people

Mass Evacuation

Mass Shelter

Humanitarian Assistance

Rest Centres

Major Emergencies

“on-site childcare facilities”

“All venues must ... be child friendly”

“the needs of vulnerable people and children are a recommended agenda item for the Humanitarian Assistance Centre committee”

“sleeping bases and blankets, pillows suitable for ... infants”

“specialist dietary requirements”



# Who relies on rest centres?

“those who cannot make private arrangements, either because they cannot afford them or have no friends or family able to support them”

London LRF Mass Shelter Framework

IMAGE: Dinendra Haria/WENN

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