

Annex 7B:

Lead responsibility for warning and informing the public

Arrangements for warning, informing and advising the public, including identification of the lead responder

The range of emergencies listed in the first column in this table matches the main classification of emergencies in Annex 4B. The remaining columns deal with the following:

1. Suggestions as to the Category 1 responders likely to have a duty to maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in relation to particular emergencies.
2. Suggestions as to which of those Category 1 responders should take the lead on behalf of the Category 1 responders in maintaining arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public *in the initial stages of an emergency*. Responsibility may of course transfer from one Category 1 responder to another as the emergency situation develops.

Category 1 responders must of course make their own decisions about identifying which will take the role of lead responder in the light of local conditions. They may wish to make a more detailed breakdown of responsibilities, as suggested by the detailed classification of types of hazard in Annex 4B.

It is important to recognise that the lead Category 1 responder will not necessarily take the lead overall in warning, informing and advising the public. This role may in certain circumstances fall to a Category 2 responder or an organisation which is not a responder. This is dealt with in column 3. Column 2 suggests which Category 1 responder might be the most appropriate to take the lead *on behalf of Category 1 responders* within these overall arrangements.

3. Suggestions of non-Category 1 responders who, in particular circumstances, may play the lead role or a significant role in arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public.

The Act imposes a duty to maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public on Category 1 responders only. In practice, Category 2 responders and the Met Office, Defra or the Food Standards Agency will have a significant role in these arrangements in relation to particular emergencies. In some cases, it will even be appropriate for a Category 2 responder or the Met Office, Defra and the Food Standards Agency to take the lead role. Included in column 3 are organisations which are relevant in this way.

The Regulations provide that Category 1 responders must have regard to the arrangements maintained by these bodies in performing their duty under the Act. The Regulations also provide that Category 1 responders need not unnecessarily duplicate the arrangements maintained by these bodies.

4. Suggestions of other organisations which will have an important role in arrangements to warn, advise and inform the public and with whom Category 1 responders may wish to liaise.

In addition to Category 2 responders and the Met Office, Defra and the Food Standards Agency, there are other organisations which will play an important role in communicating with the public. These bodies are unlikely to play such a significant role that it is appropriate for Category 1 responders to be required to have regard to their activities under the Regulations. Nonetheless, there will often be merit in Category 1 responders considering the role that these bodies will play in communicating with the public in an emergency and in liaising with them in the planning phase.

GENERIC HAZARD OR THREAT	1. Category 1 responders likely to have a duty to maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public	2. Suggestions of Category 1 responders from whom a lead responder to maintain arrangements to warn etc may be identified	3. Organisations, not Category 1s, which may also play a lead or a significant role in maintaining arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public	4. Other organisations which may have an important role in maintaining arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public
Industrial accidents and environmental pollution	Police, Fire, Environment Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, local authorities, NHS Trusts, HPA	Police, Fire, Environment Agency or Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Operators of facilities covered by the Control of Major Accident, Hazards, Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) and Pipeline Safety Regulations	Highways Agency, utilities and Met Office
Transport accidents	Police, British Transport Police, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, local authorities, NHS Trusts	Police, British Transport Police or Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Airport or port operator, train operating company, Highways Agency, Network Rail	Airlines, shipping companies
Severe weather	Police, Fire, Environment Agency, local authorities, HPA, NHS Trusts, Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Police, Fire or Environment Agency	Met Office, utilities, transport, including Highways Agency	
Structural hazards	Police, Fire, local authorities	Police, Fire or local authorities	Utilities, including water companies	Owners and operators of structures
Human health	Health Protection Agency, NHS Trusts, Port Health Authority, local authorities, Police	Health Protection Agency	Food Standards Agency	Utilities, Strategic Health Authority
Animal health	Police, local authority, Port Health Authority	Police or local authority	Defra	
Plant disease	Police, Port Health Authority	Police	Defra, Food Standards Agency	
Public protest	Police, local authority	Police		
Industrial action	Police	Police		
Industrial technical failure	Police, local authority	Police, local authority	Utilities	