

Chapter 9

London

Summary

- In most respects, the frameworks and duties set out under the Act and the Regulations will apply to London in the same way that they apply everywhere else (paragraph 9.1).
- London has a regional police force, the Metropolitan Police Service. For that reason, it is not appropriate to establish Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in London on a police area basis. Nevertheless, London still has the same need as elsewhere for multi-agency co-operation at the local level (paragraph 9.2).
- To achieve that objective, the Regulations establish groupings of boroughs which will form the basis for the LRFs (paragraphs 9.3–9.5).
- Unlike other areas, London’s local authorities will be supported in discharging their duties under the Act by the fire and rescue authority – in this case, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). LFEPA will take the lead in co-ordinating pan-London planning, support the operation of London LRFs and maintain Community Risk Registers (paragraphs 9.6–9.12).
- The London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF) is responsible for multi-agency co-operation on a pan-London level (paragraphs 9.13–9.16). Multi-agency arrangements at individual borough and regional level should work alongside the LRRF (paragraph 9.19).
- As the elected leader of London’s regional government, the Mayor of London plays a full part in supporting the effective implementation of the Act and improving the preparedness of the capital (paragraphs 9.17–9.18).

What the Act and the Regulations require

9.1 In most respects, the frameworks and duties set out under the Act and the Regulations will apply to London in the same way that they apply everywhere else. In terms of the respective functions, Category 1 and 2 responders in London are no different to those in other parts of the country. However, London has particular patterns of public service provision and government which mean that some aspects of civil protection have to be organised differently. And as

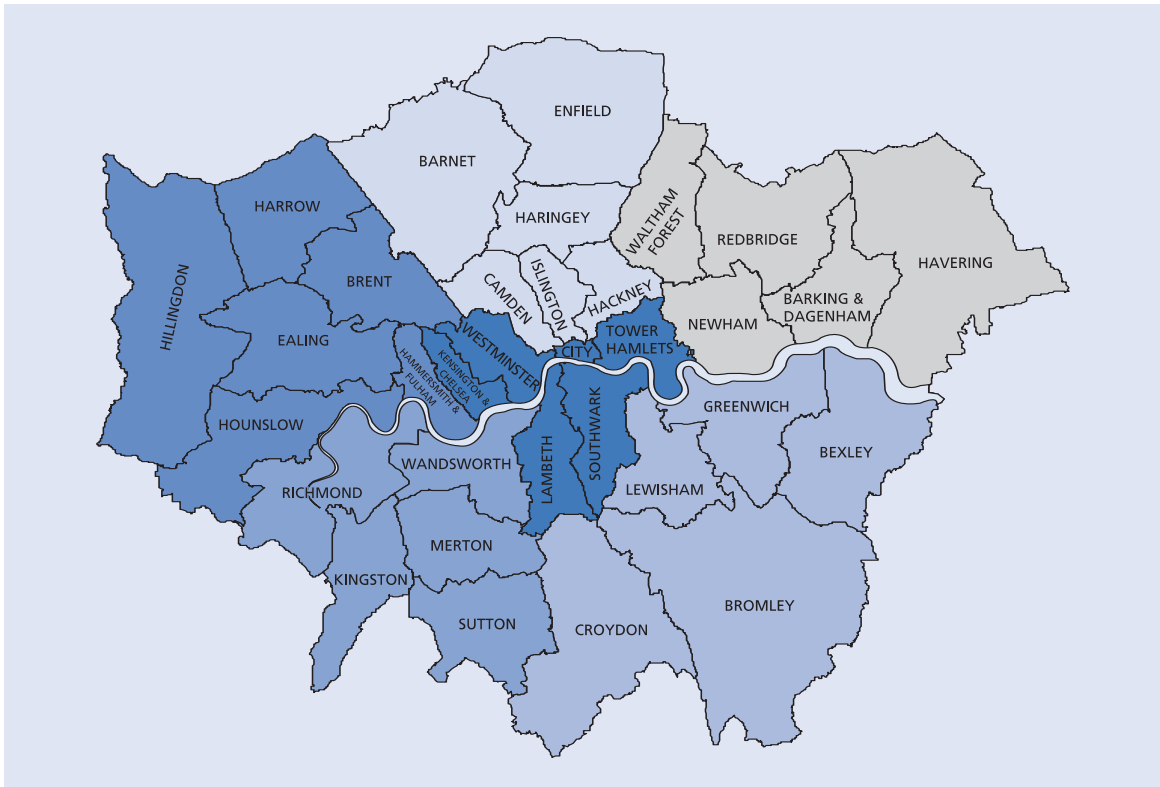
well as being a region, London is also the capital city, with the effects of any incident felt right across the UK.

Local Resilience Forums in London

9.2 London has a regional police force, the Metropolitan Police Service. For that reason, it is not appropriate to establish Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in London on a police area basis. Nevertheless, London still has the same need as elsewhere for multi-agency co-operation at the local level.

Figure 9.1: Local Resilience Forum groupings in London

North West LRF	North Central LRF	North East LRF	Central LRF	South East LRF	South West LRF
Brent	Barnet	Barking & Dagenham	City	Bexley	Kingston
Ealing	Camden	Havering	Kensington & Chelsea	Bromley	Merton
Hammersmith & Fulham	Enfield	Newham	Lambeth	Croydon	Richmond
Harrow	Hackney	Redbridge	Southwark	Greenwich	Sutton
Hillingdon	Haringey	Waltham Forest	Tower Hamlets	Lewisham	Wandsworth
Hounslow	Islington		Westminster		



9.3 To achieve that objective, the Regulations establish groupings of boroughs which will form the basis for the LRFs.¹ These are set out in Figure 9.1.

9.4 These groupings have been drawn up to reflect existing mutual aid groupings, with the addition of a central group. The central group has been added to bring together those boroughs with particular issues in relation to transient population, concentration of business activity, central government and other strategic sites, and transport hubs.

9.5 Each of these LRFs will operate in much the same way as LRFs elsewhere, working to the model set out in Chapter 2. However, the more hierarchical relationship between the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF) and the LRFs in London, set out below, will mean that the model terms of reference in Annex 2A will not be appropriate. London LRFs should have terms of reference that recognise that much of the strategic function will be discharged by the LRRF. In order for these sub-regional forums to work properly, it is essential that the emergency services ensure that they are represented at an appropriate level of seniority, as consistent with the principle of effective representation.²

The role of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

9.6 Unlike other areas, the Regulations provide³ that London's local authorities will be supported in discharging their duties under the Act by the Fire and Rescue Authority – in this case, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA). LFEPA will take on a number of distinct tasks which might otherwise have been taken on by local authorities.

9.7 In relation to co-operation obligations, LFEPA has agreed to take on responsibility for providing the secretariat to the six LRFs in London.

9.8 LFEPA will also take on responsibility for the production and maintenance of Community Risk Registers. Boroughs will continue to contribute to the risk assessment process.

9.9 In addition, LFEPA will carry out certain emergency planning activities. In particular, LFEPA will support pan-London local authority arrangements:

- **Local authority 'Gold':** In the event of the most serious emergencies in London, local authorities would need to work closely together and operate in a consistent way. To deliver this, they have agreed to pool decision-making authority and place it with a single chief executive who will speak for local authorities as the pan-London response is managed. LFEPA will maintain these arrangements, keeping them updated through review and revision.
- **Control centre:** In order to support local authority 'Gold', planning will have to be maintained to deliver an effective control centre. Should local authority 'Gold' arrangements be required, the centre would collect and disseminate information, and facilitate the collective decision-making process. LFEPA will put in place and maintain these arrangements.
- **Provision of training to support pan-London arrangements:** Certain elements of plans maintained under the Act will be consistent to all London boroughs, and this in turn leads to a consistency of training need. This need will be met by training programmes provided on request by LFEPA.
- **Provision of exercising of pan-London arrangements:** Pan-London local authority plans (including those set out in sub-paragraphs a) and b)) need to be validated through exercising. LFEPA will design and deliver an annual programme of exercises to test these arrangements. This programme will include both local authority-only exercises, and multi-agency exercises in which local authority activities are engaged.

9.10 LFEPA is funded separately for this work, with funding top-sliced from London local authorities.

9.11 London boroughs will retain responsibility for discharging all other duties under the Act. However, LFEPA will continue to make an informal input into wider planning work within the framework of multi-agency co-operation. Should boroughs so wish, they may negotiate to delegate further functions to LFEPA.

¹ regulation 3 and Schedule to the Regulations

² regulation 4 (1)–(4)

³ regulation 56

9.12 In discharging its responsibilities as set out above, LFEPA will also need to work closely with those Category 1 responders that are not local authorities. This has long been a matter of standard practice in London, but the Regulations⁴ reinforce this point by requiring co-operation between Category 1 responders and LFEPA at the latter's request. This obligation is limited to that co-operation necessary for LFEPA to carry out its own obligations in relation to co-ordination of pan-London local authority planning.

How the requirements of the Act and the Regulations may be carried out

The London Regional Resilience Forum

9.13 Just as in other regions, London has a Regional Resilience Forum. The London Regional Resilience Forum will generally operate on the same basis as other forums, as described in Chapter 17. The Forum has previously been abbreviated as the LRF, but to avoid confusion with local forums will be known as the LRRF.

9.14 The LRRF differs from the model elsewhere in that it is chaired by a Government Minister rather than the regional director. The Mayor takes on the role of deputy chair.

9.15 As both a city and a region, London has to ensure that the LRFs operate in a coherent way across London as a whole. The demographics and patterns of service delivery make pan-region coherence a more important element of civil protection in London. As a consequence, the relationship between the regional and the local level should operate in a more obviously hierarchical way. The LRRF will seek to provide strategic direction to the LRFs, cascading information and tasks in relation to the overall London effort. Members of the London Resilience Team (LRT) will sit on all LRFs.

9.16 The LRT is larger than those elsewhere, reflecting the wider range of work undertaken at the regional level in London. The LRT has a small core of civil servants but most of its members are specialists seconded from partner organisations to provide a unique combination of expertise.

The Mayor of London

9.17 As the elected leader of London's regional government, the Mayor of London plays a full part in supporting the effective implementation of the Act and improving the preparedness of the capital.

9.18 In particular, the Mayor:

- is closely engaged in high-level discussions and decisions relating to the management of emergencies in London;
- is Deputy Chair of the LRRF;
- contributes as necessary to the pre-informing of Londoners about the content of emergency plans, the correct behaviour in an emergency and good practice in terms of preparedness in the home, as part of initiatives organised both locally and at the UK level;
- prepares to play a key role in warning and informing the public during an emergency in London;
- takes responsibility for civil protection issues in connection with the management of Parliament and Trafalgar Squares.

Borough forums

9.19 At the borough level, smaller multi-agency liaison groups may operate, bringing together Category 1 responders on a more limited basis. These groups are primarily to facilitate co-operation and information sharing at the operational level between local authorities and the emergency services, and should not duplicate the work of the LRF. They may refer issues to the LRF, as appropriate.

⁴regulation 55