

## Summary of the Main Changes to the National Risk Register

1. The Government committed to publishing a National Risk Register (NRR) in its first National Security Strategy, and has undertaken to update it regularly. The first NRR was published in August 2008, and was based on the secret National Risk Assessment for that year; this updated version is based on the 2009 iteration of the National Risk Assessment.
2. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat has consulted widely on the update, through workshops with cross-Government stakeholders, businesses and community groups, and by means of a survey of Regional and Local Resilience Forums. The overseeing Steering Group included experts from central and regional Government, emergency responders, community representatives and business groups.
3. There are no major changes in terms of style, format or the scope of the document, the main purpose of which continues to be to inform the public at large of the risks of civil emergencies, the main elements of the government response, and the basic tenets of business and community resilience.
4. The main changes to the 2010 Edition and the original NRR are as follows:

### NRR Risk Matrix

5. The original NRR risk matrix, illustrating broad groupings of risks allowing them to be compared to one another in terms of likelihood and impact, has been updated. The most significant risks remain pandemic human disease, coastal flooding and terrorist attacks on crowded places and transport.
6. The risk of pandemic human disease remains the highest risk on this matrix. The outbreak of Swine 'Flu (Influenza A/H1N1) did not match the severity of the worst-case scenario that we plan for and is not necessarily indicative of future pandemic influenzas; the three influenza pandemics of the 20th century (1918-9, 1957-8 and 1968-9) all had differing levels of severity. The swine flu pandemic does not change the risk of another pandemic emerging (such as a pandemic H5N1) or mean that the severity of any future pandemics will be the same as the 2009 H1N1 outbreak.
7. The matrix does now provide greater detail on other risks and also reflects changes in the underpinning National Risk Assessment matrix between 2008 and 2009:
  - 'Electronic Attack' has been renamed 'Cyber Attack' to move the NRR closer to the 2009 Cyber Security Strategy<sup>1</sup>;
  - the matrix now contains two cyber attack risk groupings to give greater granularity to the threat: 'Cyber Attacks: National Infrastructure' and 'Cyber Attacks: Data Confidentiality';

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- a new grouping has been added covering 'Non-Pandemic Human Disease', with the 'Pandemic Influenza' grouping renamed 'Pandemic Human Disease' accordingly;
- an outbreak of a severe incidence of animal diseases such as foot and mouth is now considered more likely with the 'Animal Disease' risk grouping moving accordingly. This reflects an increase in the likelihood of the underpinning NRA risks in the 2009 NRA based on re-evaluation of the likelihood of the reasonable worst case scenarios;
- the potential impact of severe weather has increased. A better understanding of the potential impact of specific severe weather events has led experts to increase the impact score given to certain risks in the 2009 iteration of the NRA.

## **Risks**

8. The text in chapter 2 has been updated to reflect events that have occurred since the launch of the first NRR (such as the events in December, 2009, when an attempt was made to detonate a device on a Northwestern Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit) as well as improvements in the UK's capability to respond to crises - for example, improvements in responders' telecommunications. Risks are now ordered according to their relative position in the NRR matrix.

## **Considerations for Businesses and Organisations**

9. Chapter 3 has been expanded to capture more fully the necessity for a holistic approach to Business Continuity Management (BCM). The chapter now outlines in far greater detail the progressive steps organisations need to undertake to implement BCM. A diagram has been added to help visualise the concept.

## **Preparing Yourself, Your Family and Your Community for Emergencies**

10. Chapter 4 has been expanded to include further advice on what communities and the public can do to prepare for emergencies, including case studies. The revisions also link the chapter more closely to the community resilience documents being launched for consultation in parallel with the updated NRR.

## **The Risk Assessment Process**

11. Chapter 5 now contains more information on the relationship between assessment of risk at the national, regional and local level and how the NRR should be considered alongside Community Risk Registers.

**Civil Contingencies Secretariat  
Cabinet Office**