



Cabinet Office



HM Government
PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

UK Emergency Planning: Our context and approach

Civil Contingencies Secretariat
Twitter: @UKResilience

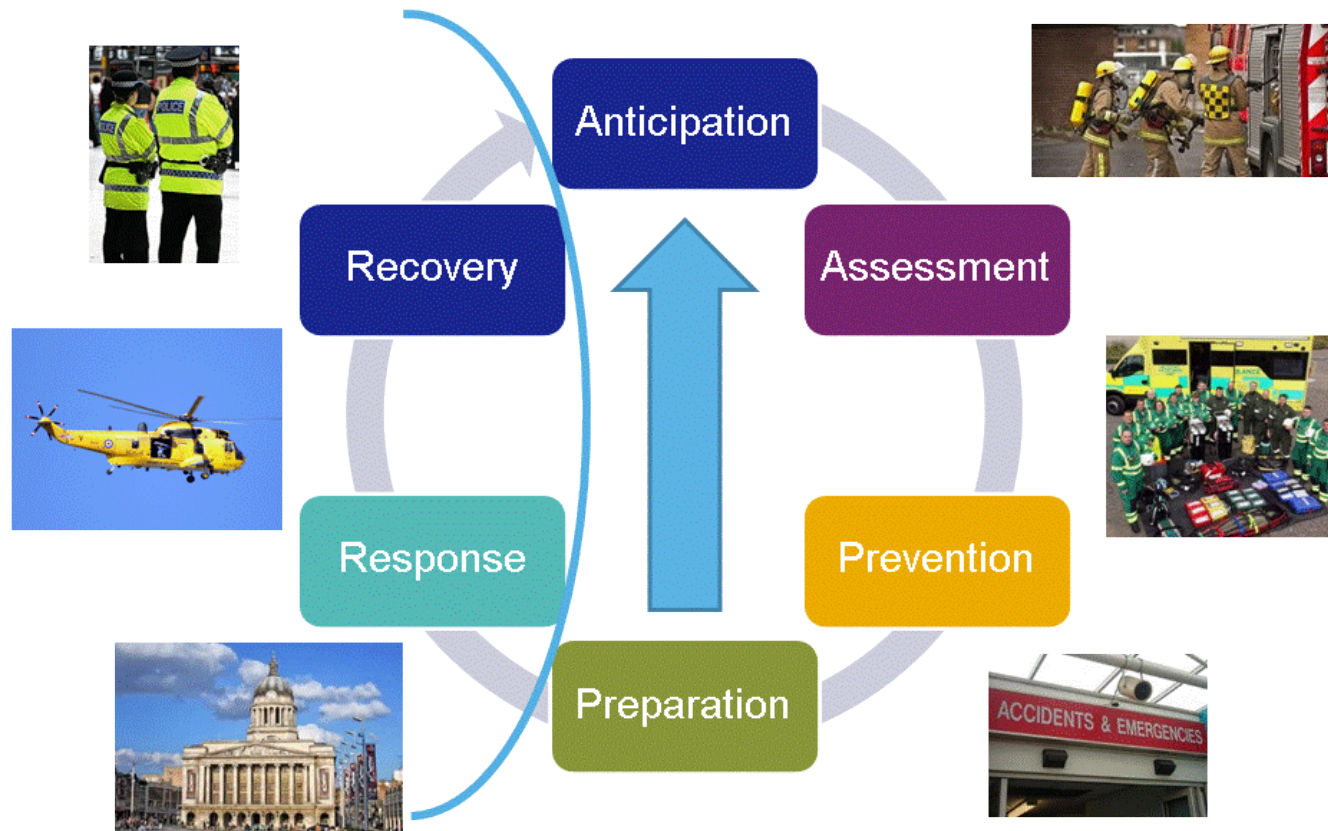


Outline agenda:

- Integrated Emergency Management
- Bottom-up Approach for Emergency Planning
- Response structures



Integrated Emergency Management





A series of key activities...

Anticipation



The need to 'horizon scan' for new hazards or threats that may cause potential emergencies.

Assessment



The analysis of emergencies to understand their likelihood of occurrence and impact (incorporating health and economic elements)

Prevention



Activities to reduce the likelihood or impacts of an emergency.



... form the basis for planning...

Preparation



Developing and validating emergency plans to test response arrangements for known risks and unforeseen events.

Response



The decisions and actions taken to deal with *immediate* effects of an emergency.

Recovery



The process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the community following an emergency.



... and set our principles for response.



COBR

Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms

Preparedness	Clarity on roles and responsibilities and up-to-date exercised plans.
Continuity	Grounded in the usual ways of doing things, just at greater speed, larger in scale and in more testing circumstances.
Subsidiarity	Decisions are taken at the lowest possible level.
Direction	Clear strategic aims and objectives.
Integration	Effective coordination of effort at all tiers of response.
Communication	Effective two-way communications and reliable information.
Cooperation	Developing trust for effective relationships
Anticipation	Forecasting problems and issues



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Building from the bottom-up

Thankfully emergencies are rare in the UK...



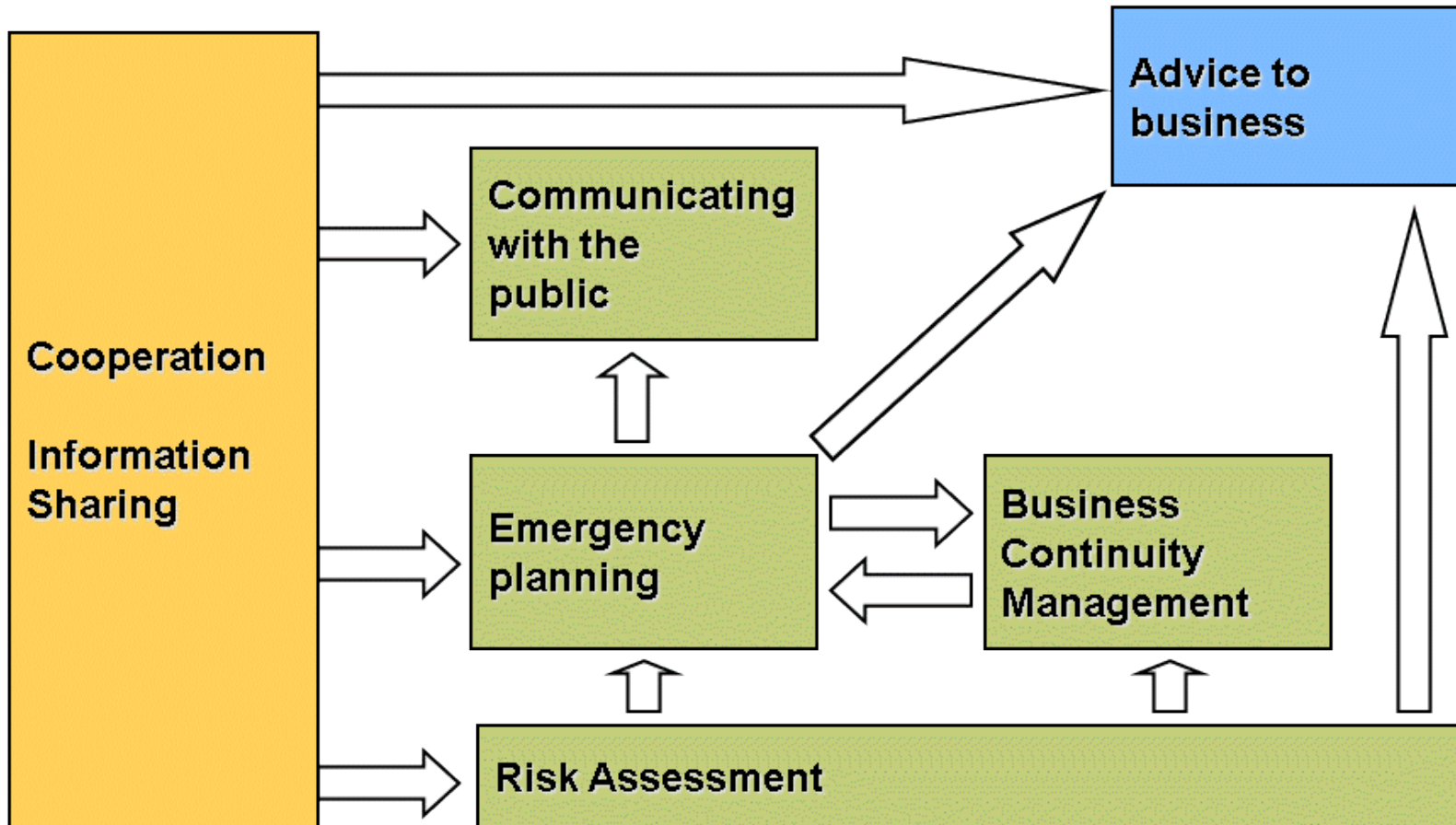


Focus on local responders

- The vast majority of emergency planning and response work is undertaken at a local level by ‘Category 1 emergency responders’.
- ‘Category 1’ covers those bodies likely to be involved in the direct frontline response to emergencies and includes the police, fire service, ambulance, NHS, local authorities and the Environment Agency.
- Category 2 responders are those organisations who are less likely to be in the heart of multiagency planning but will be involved in preparing for incidents affecting their sectors. This includes public bodies e.g. Health and Safety Executive and aspects of the private sector e.g. Telecommunications companies.
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) defines these two categories and the duties placed on them [see next slide]



The Civil Contingencies Act (Part One Duties)



Adapted from figure 1.1 of Emergency Preparedness, www.gov.uk/publications/emergency-preparedness

Category 1 responders

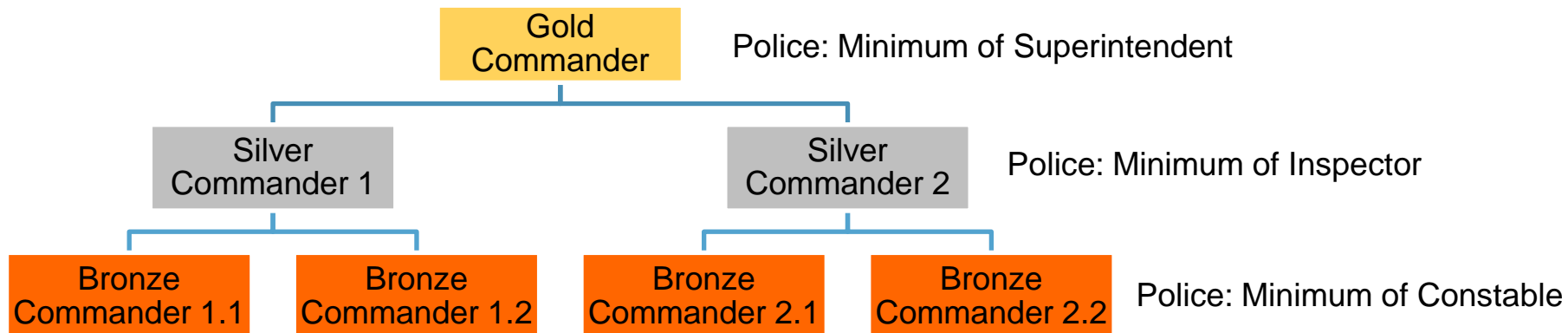
Category 1 & 2 responders

Local Authorities only



Switching to response...

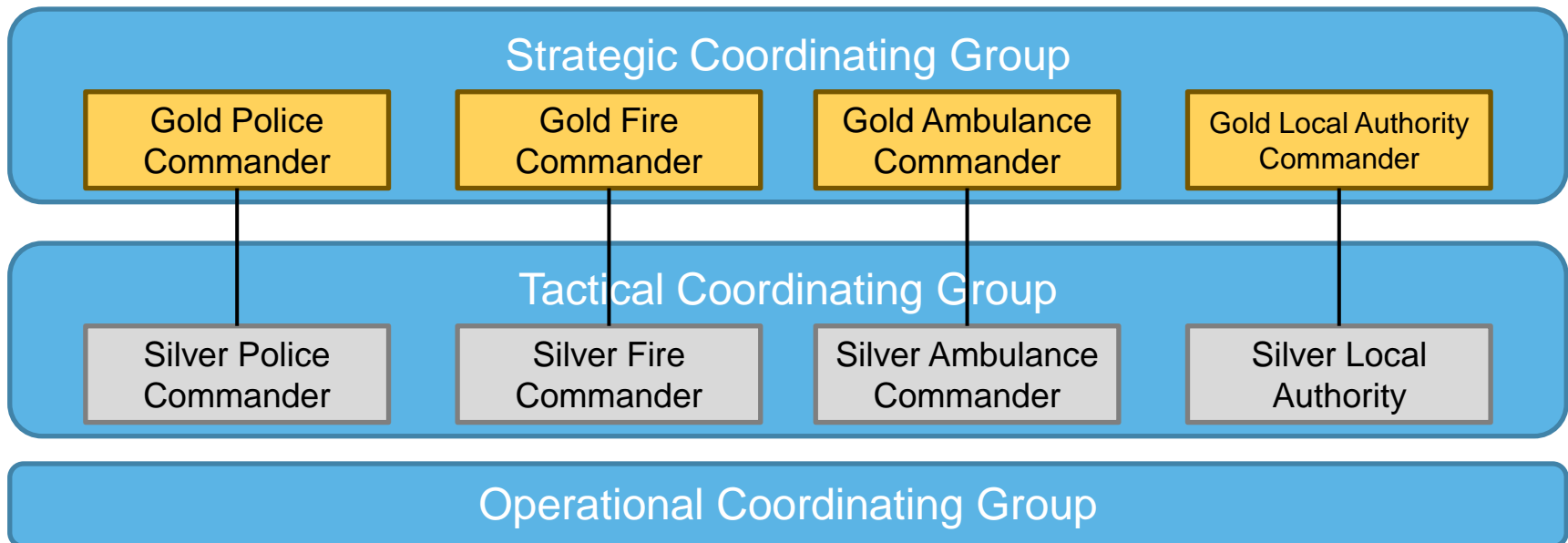
- The CCA sets duties for **planning**, the need to respond is defined within other legislation or common law e.g. Saving life and limb.
- **Command, Control and Coordination** structures will be applied dependent on the scale of the incident. Each agency also has their own Command and Control model to meet their role and requirements.
- Within a single agency these are often designated Gold, Silver and Bronze commanders.





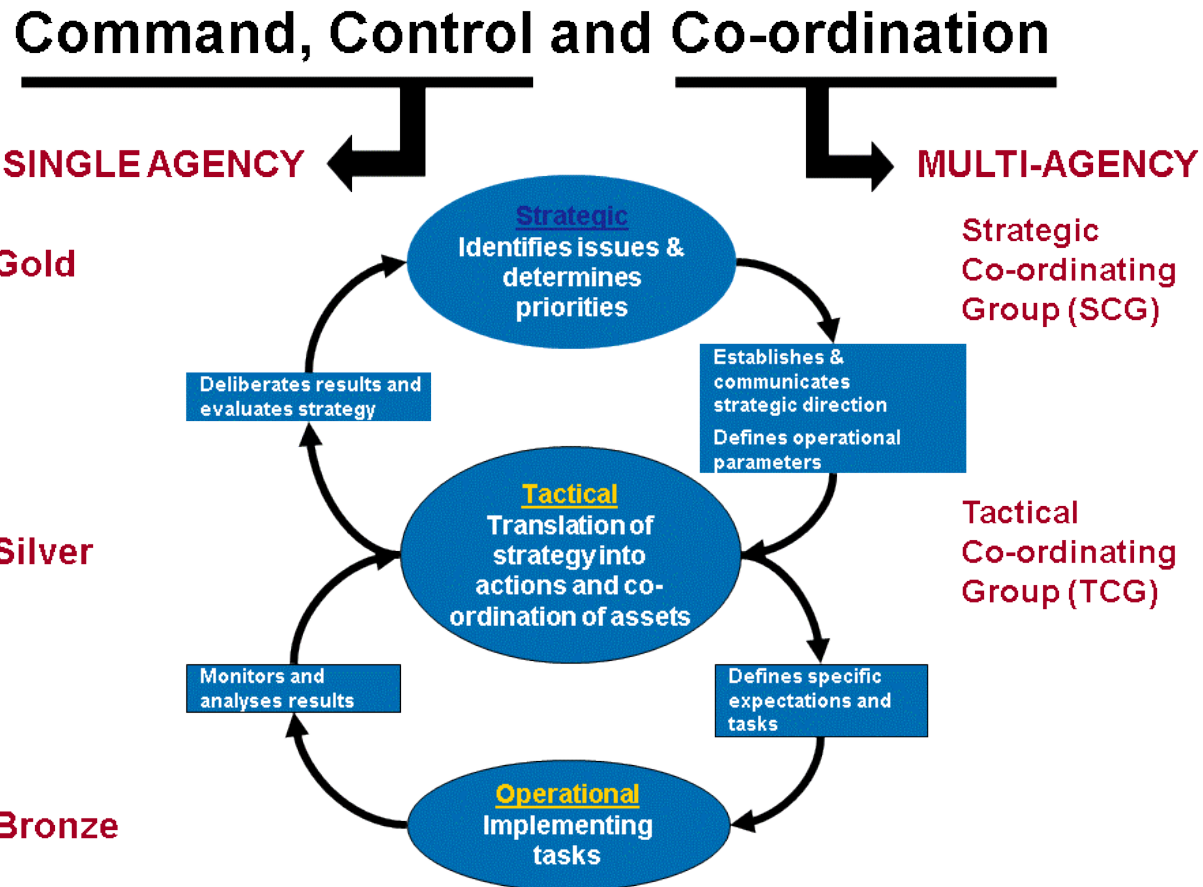
Multiagency Response Structures

- Responding to civil emergencies is complex with a high number of organisations involved this increases the risk of **responding ineffectively**.
- **Coordinating Groups** can be added at each level so that response efforts can be integrated and work towards **shared situational awareness**.





Structures and Roles





Crisis Response

It can take time for the elaborate coordination structures to be implemented. As such standing objectives are set for the Silver Commander to work to, which in the initial stages for the police will be the **‘Force Incident Manager’**.

- i. saving and protecting human life
- ii. relieving suffering
- iii. protecting property
- iv. providing the public with information
- v. containing the emergency – limiting its escalation or spread
- vi. maintaining critical services
- vii. maintaining normal services at an appropriate level
- viii. protecting the health and safety of personnel
- ix. safeguarding the environment
- x. facilitating investigations and inquiries
- xi. promoting self-help and recovery
- xii. restoring normality as soon as possible
- xiii. evaluating the response and identifying lessons to be learned.



Typical roles of cat 1 responders in response

Police	Fire Service	Ambulance Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the activities of those responding • Preserve the scene for any possible future investigation • Maintain cordons around the incident • Liaise with HM Coroner regarding any fatalities • Coordinate search activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescue of people trapped by fire, wreckage or debris • Work to render incident site safe by fighting fire and neutralise contaminants. • Assist casualty-handling and body recovery. • Mass decontamination of the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating the on-site NHS response. • Sustain life through life saving interventions. • Prioritisation of patients via triage process • Identify and notify receiving hospitals • Arrange patient transportation



Typical roles of cat 1 responders in response (contd)

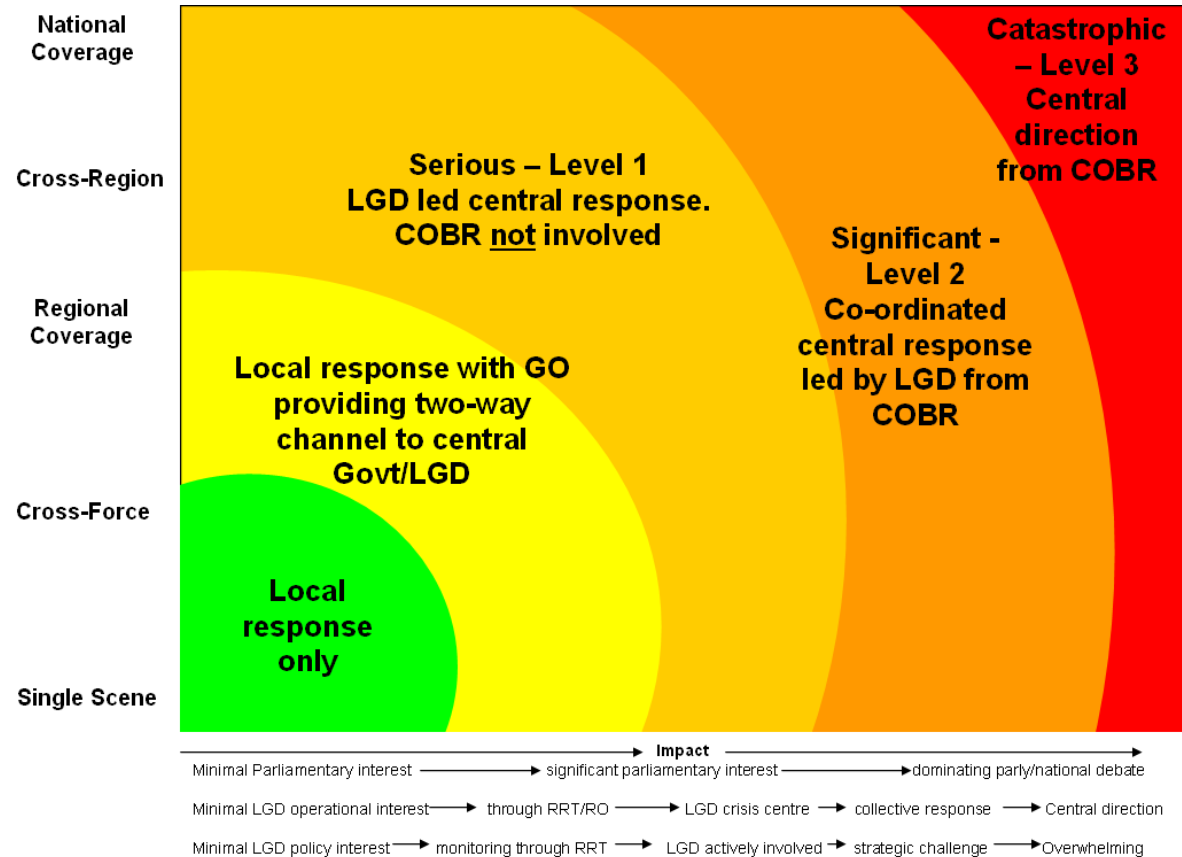
Local Authorities	Environment Agency	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate shelter and welfare for survivors • Provide medium-term support to survivors • Support investigative efforts • Inspect dangerous structures • Scene clear up, including pollution • Coordinate voluntary sector contribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood: predict location, timing and magnitude of flooding operate flood defences • Pollution: prevent, control and monitor input of pollutants, including air quality • Regulate and advise on waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation and coordination of civil maritime search and rescue. • Manage pollution at sea and assist local authorities with shoreline clear up.



Levels of emergency

The majority of incidents are managed effectively at the local level.

The Cabinet Office Briefing Room [COBR] can be activated to support or direct response efforts for particularly challenging incidents.





In conclusion:

- Integrated Emergency Management is built on six steps: anticipation, assessment, prevention, preparation, response and recovery.
- Government policy is clear and built on a bottom-up approach with a complimentary framework at the national level.
- The stakeholder environment is complicated but working together is essential.



References

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