



Transport Accidents

Certain industrial activities involving dangerous substances have the potential to cause accidents. Some of these accidents may cause serious injuries to people or damage to the environment both nearby, and further away from the site of the accident.

Transport emergencies can be the result of accidents but also disruption caused by severe weather such as snow and floods. The situation can be further complicated by extremes of temperature if people are trapped in their vehicles for long periods of time.



ROAD

The majority of roads are managed by East and West Sussex County Council's and Brighton & Hove's Highways departments, whilst the roads which form part of the UK's strategic road network (the A23, A27, M23) are managed by the Highways Agency.

Other significant roads within the county include the A24, A272, A259 and the A22. These roads are all heavily used by haulage companies to move goods around the country and to and from ports.

Most road accidents are within the routine capabilities of the three lead emergency services. However, there is always the risk of an accident going beyond these capabilities and the need for more extended agency involvement, especially if the accident involves chemicals or hazardous materials.

RAIL

The rail network passes through Sussex both from East to West and North to Gatwick and London. The CRR considers the possibility of a rail accident within the county.

SEA

The English Channel is the busiest shipping lane in the world carrying cargo and passenger vessels. The CRR considers the possibility of an incident involving a passenger vessel off the coast (fire, stranding, collision or sinking).

AIR

Gatwick Airport is the UK's second largest airport and the busiest single-runway airport in the world. It serves more than 200 destinations (more than

any other UK airport) in 90 countries for around 33 million passengers a year on short- and long-haul point-to-point services.

The flight paths that serve the Airport cover a number of large conurbations in Sussex and the CRR considers the possibility of an aircraft accident within the County.

IN SUSSEX

Sussex has a large and varied amount of transport infrastructure which carries with it the risk of incidents and disruption.

RISK IMPACTS

- The predicted impacts could include:
- Disruption to normal travel capabilities
- Death or injury to people
- People stranded in vehicles potentially in extreme weather conditions
- Environmental impacts if goods are spilled into local environment
- Possible damage to buildings or infrastructure.

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences could include:

- Impact on local businesses through delayed or failed deliveries
- Delays in emergency services reaching people.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- When travelling make yourself aware of any emergency procedures issued by operators.
- Have an emergency kit in your car or basic items when you travel. You may not be directly involved in an accident but the transport disruption could last for hours.
- When driving, abide by the rules of the road, adhere to speed limits and drive safely.
- Ensure your vehicle is kept in a roadworthy and safe condition.
- Avoid non-essential journeys during times of severe weather.
- Plan your journey in advance and listen to the local radio.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SUSSEX?

- Work with national transport companies to plan for dealing with accidents.
- The various Highways departments work alongside the Highways Agency to keep all major county roads accessible during times of severe weather.