

## About the HPA

The Health Protection Agency, is an independent organisation that was set up by the government in 2003 to protect the public from the health effects of infectious diseases and other hazards to health.

It does this by providing support, advice and information to the general public, to health professionals, to national and local government and to other organisations that play a part in protecting health.

The HPA identifies and responds to health hazards and emergencies caused by infectious disease, hazardous chemicals, poisons or radiation.

It also makes sure the nation is ready for future threats to health that could happen naturally, accidentally or deliberately.

The HPA combines public health and scientific knowledge, research and emergency planning within one organisation – and works at international, national, regional and local levels.

The HPA work is underpinned by research and gathering the best possible evidence. It has a history of translating this intelligence into actions that directly help patients, such as new vaccines and treatments.

Please visit [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk) to learn more about the HPA and its work.

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## Strategic Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Emergency Response



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The Strategic Emergency Preparedness and Response (SEPR) team are responsible for coordinating and supporting the HPA's preparedness and response arrangements for dealing with an incident or emergency. The team is responsible to the chief executive for ensuring that all the HPA's plans and operating procedures are fit for purpose, consistent and do not conflict with the plans and policies of partner agencies and government departments, this is achieved through an emergency preparedness governance process managed by the team.

SEPR also hold the duty for the maintenance of strategic / corporate emergency plans in order to reflect any new legislation, statutory obligations or codes of practice that may be developed. Moreover, they ensure that all strategic plans are regularly tested through exercises, and following real incidents. SEPR ensure that elements of best practice and lessons identified are incorporated into the response arrangements for the agency.



## Strategic lead

In any significant emergency response required by the agency, SEPR is responsible for providing the strategic and tactical framework that underpins the HPA response in support of the Department of Health (DH), other government departments, regional government and local Authorities, the NHS, blue light responders and others, including Devolved Administrations.

The Team is also responsible for ensuring that HPA staff are appropriately trained to deliver their assigned emergency roles, and that their skills are regularly tested either in incidents or exercises, and that these skills are refreshed and further developed through continued training as appropriate.



## Preparedness and response standards

The Strategic Emergency Preparedness and Response team is responsible for developing a set of standards for the HPA in relation to preparedness and response to act as a benchmark for the ongoing governance process.

The Strategic Emergency Preparedness and Response team is also responsible for maintaining a business continuity management system for the HPA and ensuring the system is regularly tested and is fit for purpose.

