



Cabinet Office

epc

Navigating Summer Weather Risks in the UK

A Business Continuity Perspective

Heatwaves in the UK

During the **UK 2022 heatwave**, the village of Coningsby in Eastern England reached **40.3 degrees Celsius** on July 19, 2022.


That same day, temperatures at **Heathrow** and **St James's Park** in London, as well as **Pitsford**, Northamptonshire, also recorded a maximum temperature of over **40 degrees Celsius**.

- **2022 was the UK's hottest year on record.**

Heatwaves in the UK



It was also reported that nearly **half** of the UK's organisations were impacted. According to a survey by the British Chambers of Commerce, around **45% of organisations experienced some form of disruption** due to the extreme heat - staff productivity, infrastructure strain, and supply chain challenges.



This statistic emphasises the necessity for organisations to have robust contingency plans to handle severe weather events and maintain business continuity.

How can we do that?...



Identify Organisational Vulnerabilities

Consider specific threats your business may face



Identify critical business operations impacted by heatwaves



Evaluate risks to infrastructure, supply chains, and workforce



Develop plans and mitigation strategies for identified risks

Protect Employee Health and Safety

Prioritise the safety of your employees during severe weather



Implement flexible working hours and remote work options
(where appropriate)



Ensure workspaces are cool and well-ventilated



Provide regular breaks and access to cool drinking water



Maintain Infrastructure and Equipment

Verify the reliability of your technology infrastructure



Regularly service air conditioning units



Ensure critical IT equipment is in climate-controlled environments



Have backup power solutions ready for any power outages

Strengthen Supply Chain Resilience

Evaluate the resilience of your supply chain in the face of severe weather disruptions

☀️ Identify and engage with contingency suppliers

☀️ Maintain higher inventory levels during heatwave seasons (depending on the product)

☀️ Collaborate on joint heatwave response plans with suppliers

Develop Clear Communication Plans

Ensure effective communication with all stakeholders



Establish emergency communication channels



Keep employees and stakeholders informed about safety measures and operational changes



Provide updates on potential service disruptions



Enhance Remote Work Capabilities

Enhance the efficiency of employees operating remotely



Ensure robust remote work infrastructure



Test remote access systems and provide necessary tools



Secure IT systems against overheating and power issues





Regularly Review Business Continuity Plans

Ensure consistent and effective review policies



Conduct regular heatwave scenario drills and simulations



Update business continuity plans annually



Incorporate lessons learned from past heatwaves





Engage with Community and Stakeholders

Collaborate with local authorities, emergency services, and neighbouring businesses



Participate in local emergency planning



Collaborate with other businesses and authorities



Understand and address customer and stakeholder concerns



Conclusion: Embrace Resilience

Prepare your organisation for the consequences of severe heat

Proactive preparation is essential for business continuity

Ensure your continuity plans are comprehensive and up-to-date

Prioritise safety and well-being of employees and community



Cabinet Office

epc



Not sure where to start?

We can help

Visit our website...

www.epcresilience.com

