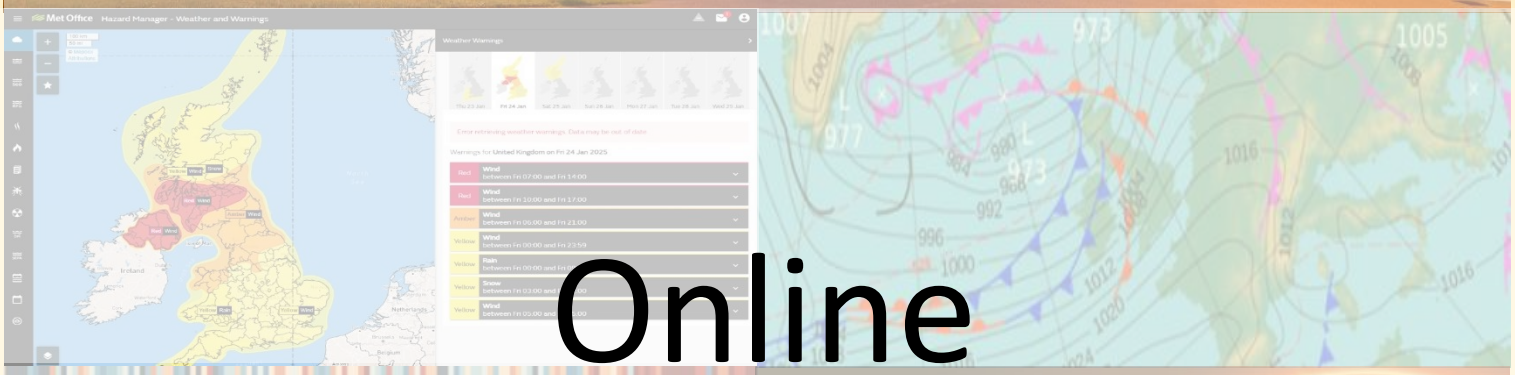

Online Emergency Responder Training Prospectus 2026

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Foreword

Welcome to the Met Office Advisors' 2026 Online Training Prospectus.

The courses are aimed at Cat1 and Cat2 responders, although a selection of voluntary sector partners are also welcome to join this easily accessible training. Running these courses online continues to allow attendees to undergo training from their normal working location, fitting it into their normal working day, saving on travel time and costs.

The 2026 prospectus contains courses that have proved so successful over the last few years but with updated material. We have also included a couple of new innovations that may interest you. Firstly, we are introducing Lunch & Learn sessions which are aimed at providing a short refresh for our most popular courses. Secondly, we are trialling a short exercise session where responders can come together to work through a severe weather scenario.

Please note that, as the Advisor Team are operational, if there is severe weather around at the time of the course that requires much of the Advisor team to respond, courses may be postponed at short notice.

If you have any questions regarding this prospectus or any of the courses, please feel free to contact your local Advisor or email us at training.cca@metoffice.gov.uk and we will be pleased to help you.

Registration:

The course pages below show the aims and objectives of each course, an outline of its contents and the dates and times when the course will be delivered. The calendar of courses shows the dates of the courses and these dates are a link to the corresponding registration page. On completion of the registration, you will receive a message with an option to 'Add to Calendar'. Select this to place an invite into your calendar. Joining instructions and handouts will be emailed to you a week or so before the course is due to take place.

Course Order:

It does not matter in which order you do the courses. However, it is highly recommended that you attend the 'Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies' course first, or have previously covered its material in the past, especially the parts focusing on the National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS) and Hazard Manager. This recommendation is especially true if you intend to register for the 'Meteorology for Responders', 'Atmospheric Dispersion', the Severe Weather Exercises and the Seasonal Weather Hazards courses. If this is not possible then please don't worry and attend other courses as and when you are available.

Calendar of Full-Length Courses

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wildfires	27th		18th								26th	
Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies			5th						16th			
Meteorology for Responders				30th			16th					
Climate Change					5th		2nd			6th		
Space Weather						25th			22nd			
Atmospheric Dispersion			11th						2nd			
Summer Weather Hazards				21st		2nd						
Winter Weather Hazards										7th	9th	
Coastal Flooding				23rd							3rd	
Severe Weather Exercise					21st				30th		17th	

Calendar of Lunch & Learn Sessions

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies			9th				14th					
Meteorology for Responders					6th						4th	
Summer Weather Hazards					14th							
Winter Weather Hazards										20th		

Aims and objectives:

The number and severity of wildfires is increasing around the world but also here in the UK, as we saw in the hot, dry summer of 2022. This 2-hour course aims to raise the awareness of wildfires, how they develop, how the fire spreads and how meteorological factors play a part. ***This course is run in partnership with the Forestry Commission and Imperial College, who have helped develop this course. It is primarily for those organisations who need to directly respond to wildfires such as Fire & Rescue Services and Land Managers.***

Course Structure:

Part 1: Introduction to Wildfires
This part will introduce the topic looking at what we mean by wildfires and the trends in wildfire activity across the Globe and the UK.

Part 2: Fire Science
Wildfire behaviour is a complex process, but it can be approximated by looking at key parameters like fuel characteristics, slope, wind and others. This part of the course will introduce the key concepts of wildfire behaviour with emphasis on ignition, spread and smoke.

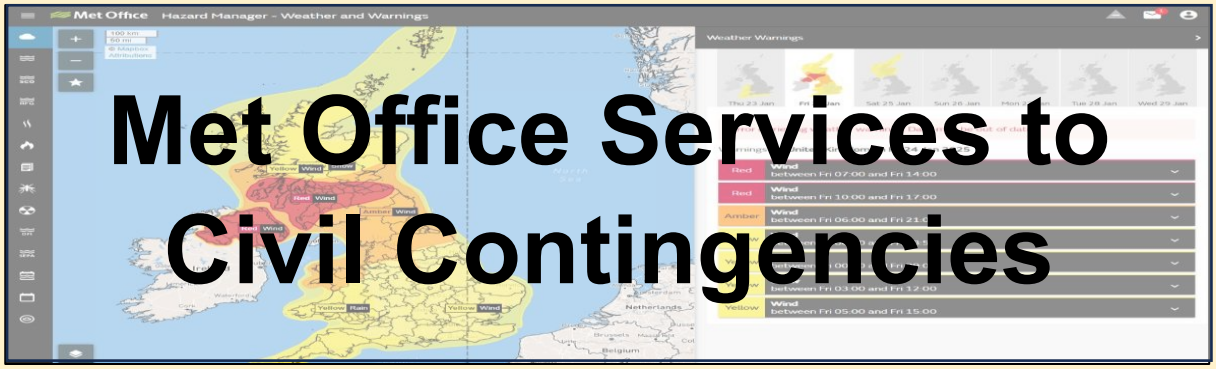
Part 3: Meteorology of Wildfires and Wildfire Products
Meteorological factors can play a key role in the development and spread of wildfires. This part of the course will look at key factors giving examples from past fires in the UK and then share key wildfire products / services available from the Met Office.

Part 4: Climate Change
This final part will look at how climate change is likely to affect wildfires in the future.

2026 Course Dates:

Tuesday 27th January, 1100-1330 Wednesday 18th March, 1300-1530

Thursday 26th November, 1100-1330



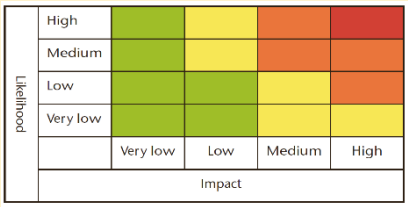
Met Office Services to Civil Contingencies

This course will look at the services that the Met Office provides to civil contingency partners to aid them in their role. It will be a combination of a PowerPoint presentation, looking at available services, and their uses, plus a practical session on the Hazard Manager website. ***Lunch & Learn Session Available***

Full Length Course Structure:

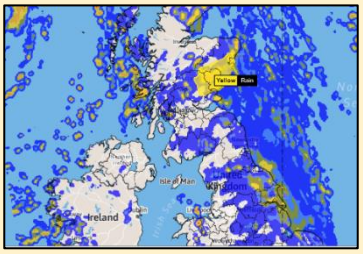
Part 1: Met Office Services
This will look at the main services provided to civil contingency partners including:

- Met Office Civil Contingency Advisors
- National Severe Weather Warning Service (NSWWS)
- Website and App



Part 2: Hazard Manager
This will be a practical session on Hazard Manager, looking at the products available including:

- Actual and Forecast Weather Details
- Weather Warnings
- Flood Guidance
- Hazard Advice



Please Note: This course covers key elements which are in other courses in this prospectus. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you attend this course first unless you have previously attended courses which have looked in depth at the National Severe Weather Warning Service and Hazard Manager.

Lunch and Learn Session: The 1-hour session is a shorter session that would like a quick run through of the services that the Met Office provides to civil contingency partners, including any recent changes, without completing the full course or as a taster.

2026 Course Dates:

Full Length Course	Lunch & learn Session
Thursday 5th March, 1100-1300	Monday 9th March, 1200-1300
Wednesday 16th September, 1300-1500	Tuesday 14th July, 1300-1400

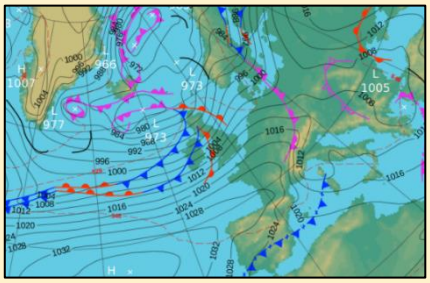
Meteorology for Responders

Aims and objectives:

This 2-hour course aims to help Emergency Responders better understand the meteorology behind the weather that we see in the UK. The course will include a look at warning considerations given when severe weather approaches the UK, using past events as examples. After this course, attendees will have an increased knowledge and understanding of what to look out for ahead of severe weather to assist them in their preparation and response. ***Lunch & Learn Session Available***

Full Length Course Structure:

The course will have different sections, each building on the last one. Sections will include:



- Global circulations and the jet stream: How they influence the weather in the UK.
- Pressure and frontal systems: What they are and their structure.
- Air masses that affect the UK and the differing weather conditions they bring.

During these sections, past severe weather events that affected the UK will assist with learning. For example, what led to the widespread flooding across Cumbria in 2015 or what led to the widespread snow in February 2018?

Please Note: Before attending this course, it is highly recommended that you attend the 'Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies' course or have previously attended another course which looked at the National Severe Weather Warning Service in depth.

Lunch & Learn Session: The 1-hour Lunch & Learn session is for people who would like a quick run through of the main influences on our weather through some examples of significant historical weather events without going through the full course or as a taster.

2026 Course Dates:

Full Length Course	Lunch & Learn Sessions
Thursday 30th April, 1300-1500	Wednesday 6th May, 1300-1400
Thursday 16th July, 1100-1300	Wednesday 4th November, 1200-1300

Climate Change

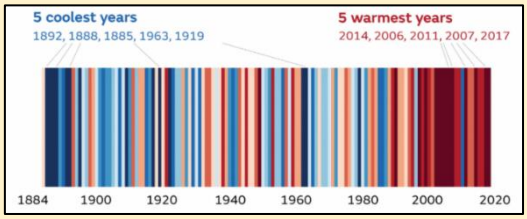
Aims and objectives:

This 2-hour session will set out to explain Climate Change to emergency responders, what the current state of the climate is within the UK and around the globe plus a look at what the future climate may hold. This will lead to an increased knowledge around the issues and potential impacts we may face in the future and where further information can be found to assist with planning and preparation.

Course Structure:

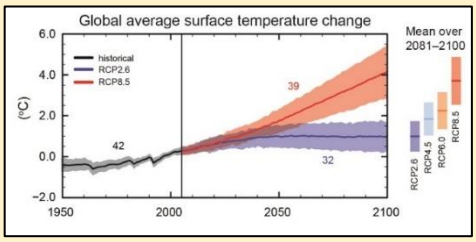
Part 1: Climate Science

This section will focus on the fundamentals of climate science, greenhouse gas emissions, current changes observed in global climate and the current state of the UK climate.



Part 2: Climate projections

This section will move on to look at aspects of the future climate and the UK climate projections for future years. This will include the predictions from UKCP18, where to seek out information and the projections.



Part 3: Mitigation and Adaptation

We will then finish off with a look at emission mitigation and adaptation actions.

2026 Course Dates:

Tuesday 5th May, 1000-1200 Thursday 2nd July, 1100-1300

Tuesday 6th October, 1000-1200

Aims and objectives:

Space Weather appears high up on the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) but what is it? This 1.5-hour course will set out to explain what Space Weather is, why we should be interested in it and what information we can access to help us in our risk assessments, planning and preparation.

Course Structure:

Part 1: What is Space Weather?

This session will look at the science around Space Weather and what it is. By the end of this session, you will know the difference between a Solar Flare and a Coronal Mass Ejection. We will finish with a look at the Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre, the products / services they provide and how they can support you in your work, which may be affected by Space Weather.

Part 2: Space Weather – Potential Impacts

This session will look at why we should be interested, and possibly concerned, about Space Weather and the potential impacts that could come along from a major Space Weather event. Have any events happened like this before that we can learn from?

2026 Course Dates:

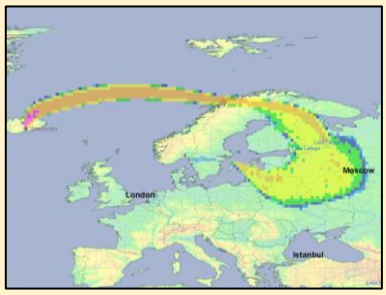
Thursday 25th June, 1100-1230

Tuesday 22nd September, 1300-1430

Aims and objectives:

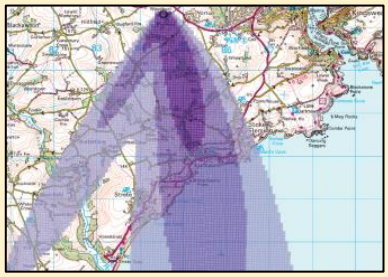
The Met Office responds to many incidents that, whilst not initially the result of adverse weather, can become very dependent on the prevailing weather conditions. The meteorology will influence how an incident plays out and may affect the emergency response. This 2-hour course looks at how particles disperse once they are in the atmosphere and services that the Met Office can provide when such airborne incidents occur.

Course Structure:



Part 1: Dispersion Modelling

This session will look back at how, and why, the Met Office created a dispersion modelling capability before looking at how it works. We will then move on to look at the current uses for the modelling capability.



Part 2: CHEMET +

This session will concentrate on the services that the Met Office provide to assist emergency responders in their response to any incidents which involve atmospheric dispersion. This includes CHEMET, PACRAM, FireMet and the Fire Severity Index as well as looking at how the behaviour of plume changes in relation to the weather.

Please Note: Before attending this course, it is highly recommended that you attend the 'Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies' course or have previously attended a course which covered Hazard Manager in depth.

2026 Course Dates:

Wednesday 11th March, 1300-1500

Wednesday 2nd September, 1000-1200

Aims and objectives:

These 2-hour courses provide further information about specific weather risks associated with, what are often, the more active seasons of the year. Over the course we will look at the risks and the products / services provided by the Met Office for responders and the public along with selected examples of previous events. ***Lunch & Learn Session Available***

Summer Course content:

The summer course will run in May and June and look at some of the risks associated with the summer natural hazards, including:

- Hot weather impacts
- Thunderstorms and lightning
- Drought
- Air Quality
- Pollen
- Wildfires

2026 Course Dates:

Full Length Course	Lunch & Learn Session
Tuesday 21st April, 1300-1500	Thursday 14th May, 1200-1300
Tuesday 2nd June, 1000-1200	

Winter Course content:

The winter course will run in October and November and look at some of the risks associated with the winter natural hazards, including:

- Cold weather impacts
- Winter storms
- Flooding

2026 Course Dates:

Full Length Course	Lunch & learn Session
Wednesday 7th October, 1300-1500	Tuesday 20th October, 1300-1400
Monday 9th November, 1200-1400	

Please Note: Prior to these courses, it is highly recommended that you attend the 'Met Office Services for Civil Contingencies' course or have previously attended courses which covered the National Severe Weather Warning Service and Hazard Manager in depth.

Lunch & Learn Session: The 1-hour Lunch & Learn session is for people who would like a quick run through the main seasonal weather hazards that we are likely to see, and the services we and others provide, without completing the full course.

Aims and objectives:

During this 2-hour course we will aim to explain what is meant by a coastal flooding, forecasting coastal flooding, including the challenges and uncertainties faced, and finally a look at the role of forecasting partners. ***This course is run in partnership with the Environment Agency, who have helped develop this course.***

Course Structure:

Part 1:

In this session we will look at what we mean by the coastal flood risk including relevant terminology. We will also look at storm surges, how they develop and the potential impacts, including inundation and coastal erosion.

Part 2:

In this session we will look at how we forecast coastal flooding events and what services we provide to enable people and organisations to prepare. We will also look at an example from the past to bring everything together. Finally, we will look at how climate change will impact the coastal flood risk.

2026 Course Dates:

Thursday 23rd April, 1200-1400

Wednesday 3rd November, 1300-1500

Aims and objectives:

During this 1-hour session, we aim to run a mix of interactive exercising and training based on specific severe weather, including potential multi-hazard impacts. This will involve discussion on preparation, response and first thoughts on recovery, and how Met Office services, Advisors and information can support your decision making before, during and post these, often major, incidents.

Course Structure:

During this session, most of the time will be dedicated to the exercising element. Although, it will also include training on this specific severe weather, including how continuing climate change is projected to change its frequency, intensity and distribution through the year within the UK. Please come prepared – and also to share your thoughts!

Exercise Scenarios:

- May – Heat / Wildfires
- September – Named Storm (including strong winds, heavy rain & flooding)
- November – Snow / ice

2026 Exercise Dates:

Heat:
Thursday 21st May, 1200-1300

Named Storms:
Wednesday 30th September, 1300-1400

Snow / Ice:
Tuesday 17th November, 1200-1300

Additional Links and Information

Met Office

Website - https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/

Weather Warnings – https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings

Space Weather – https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/specialist-forecasts/space-weather

Atmospheric Dispersion – https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/modelling-systems/dispersion-model

Hazard Manager – https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/environmental-hazard-resilience/access

Climate Change – https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/what-is-climate-change

Met Office College - https://college.metoffice.gov.uk/

Met Office YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@metoffice

Met Office App (Apple): https://apps.apple.com/us/app/met-office-weather-forecast/id1068146838

Met Office App (Android): https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.gov.metoffice.weather.android