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Why do I need to prepare? What risks?

The following articles are FACT and portray some of the risks that we face in the UK

December 2010 Northern Ireland - Water shortage.

A sudden thaw after Arctic conditions had burst thousands of pipes and resulted in reservoirs running dry. This resulted in 40000 homes left without running water.

Supermarkets and shops had been swamped with customers trying to buy bottled water. Many if not all had empty shelves.

17 distribution centres were eventually set up, some saw queues of 400 desperate people wanting drinking water.

Doctors warned of a Public Health emergency.

7 days this nightmare run for.

Winter of 2009/2010 Gas warnings

There were urgent calls for Britain to build more gas storage facilities after the National Grid warned of temporary gas shortages as demand neared record highs during the freezing weather of 2009/2010.

The shadow energy secretary, Greg Clark, accused the government of having its "head in the sand" for failing to ensure that more storage facilities had been put in place over the past decade, and claimed that Britain had just eight days of capacity.

The National Grid issued a "gas balancing alert", asking power firms and large industries to cut back on their consumption. It was only the second time the alert has ever been issued.

In **October 2004** The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology published the following statement.

"The UK's gas reserves are declining. Government and industry analysts estimate that by around 2006 the UK will no longer be self-sufficient in gas production and will revert to being a net gas importer. Gas is the largest proportion of the UK's primary energy supply, and gas-fired power plants are the main method of power generation. The UK will increasingly depend on gas imported from Europe and further afield."

Peak Oil

In June 2011 a UK government report stated that the government was warned by its own civil servants two years previous that there could be "significant negative economic consequences" to the UK posed by near-term "peak oil" energy shortages.

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Ministers were told it was impossible to know exactly when production might fail to meet supply but when it did there could be global consequences, including "civil unrest".

In 2010 the US military warned that surplus oil production capacity could disappear within two years and there could be serious shortages by 2015 with a significant economic and political impact.

January 2003 adverse weather – M11 Cambridgeshire

The snowbound M11, caused misery for thousands of travellers.

Drivers were stranded for hours in their cars **overnight** after traffic on the busy motorway was forced to a standstill because of terrible conditions.

"We've been sitting here for 17 hours and we don't know what's happening. No one has seen any sign of the emergency service or gritters," said a driver interviewed by Sky News.

"The M11 is effectively a car park. And the situation doesn't look like it's going to change for some hours," said a Cambridgeshire police spokesman.

7th July 2005 – Terrorist Attack London

52 people murdered, hundreds more injured and thousands faced major disruption in getting home. Many having to walk...

October 2011 – GCHQ warns of disturbing levels of Cyber attacks against the UK.

Cyber attacks on the UK are at "disturbing" levels, according to the director of Britain's biggest intelligence agency.

Government computers, along with defence, technology and engineering firms' designs have been targeted, Iain Lobban, the head of GCHQ, has said.

The above are factual examples of why I prepare. Not because I am a paranoid lunatic, but because the world can be a very nasty place and is full of uncertainties...

It's easy to say "It will never happen to me!" Until it does...

And if I didn't care about me and you then I'd be failing us both.

Stay safe!

DV - Nov 2011