# UK citizens urged to prepare survival kits amid Russian threat to energy security



Concerns over the potential for a conflict involving Russia have intensified in the UK, prompting calls for citizens to prepare a "72-hour survival kit." This warning follows observations of Russian activities in the North Sea, specifically the presence of a spy ship, the Yantar, which has reportedly been monitoring the UK’s energy infrastructure. The Yantar is capable of deploying submarines and is equipped with explosives designed to target underwater pipelines.

The United Kingdom relies heavily on imported gas, with approximately 40% of its supply coming from Norway via the Langeled pipeline. This significant infrastructure spans 700 miles, stretching from the Nyhamna gas processing facility on the island of Gossa to the Easington gas terminal in County Durham. Security experts, including sources cited by the Mail, have highlighted the vulnerability of this pipeline, particularly in light of Russia's past actions, such as those involving the Nord Stream pipelines in Germany.

Sources have indicated that the UK’s energy infrastructure could be at risk of sabotage, with statements affirming, "We know that the Russians are active in the North Sea and have the power to cripple our energy links." This commentary reflects growing concerns about the nation's dependence on international energy sources and the urgent need for enhanced self-sufficiency.

In response to these threats, UK families are being advised to assemble survival kits containing essential items for a minimum of three days. The recommended supplies include non-perishable food items like tins of beans and Spam, bottles of water, first aid kits, battery-powered radios, flashlights, Swiss Army knives, and identity documents. This initiative aligns with advice issued by EU security chiefs, who have urged their citizens to prepare similarly due to fears of Russian attacks on energy infrastructure.

The implications of energy dependence were evident last winter when the UK faced precarious margins between demand and its domestic electricity generation capabilities. Emergency measures were taken, such as activating a high-voltage cable from Denmark, to mitigate the risk of blackouts.

Dr Sidharth Kaushal from the Royal United Services Institute emphasised the critical nature of gas supplies, particularly the reliance on the Langeled pipeline. He stated, "Energy in general and gas in particular is an area of acute concern," stressing the importance of diversifying energy sources to reduce the alertness of the potential "single point of failure" posed by reliance on this pipeline.

The dialogue surrounding preparedness extends beyond mere survival kits, encompassing broader discussions about national security and the need for strategic measures to protect undersea energy infrastructure. In light of escalating tensions and the landscape of current global conflicts, the UK's approach to energy security is under increased scrutiny as it navigates its reliance on imports while aiming for a transition towards Net Zero emissions.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-war-russia-ukraine-mi6-alex-younger-b2726102.html> - This article highlights concerns about Russia's increasing military activities and the need for Britain to enhance its defense capabilities, including potentially through national service. It mentions the impact of Russia's actions on European security.
* <https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-shadow-war-against-west> - The CSIS report details Russia's aggressive campaign of sabotage and subversion in Europe, which includes targeting energy infrastructure, aligning with concerns over the Langeled pipeline's vulnerability.
* <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/british-public-opinion-about-conflict-ukraine-three-years> - This Ipsos poll reflects British public concerns about the war in Ukraine and its implications on energy security and national security, supporting the notion that the UK's reliance on imported energy sources is a concern.
* <https://www.justice.gov/archives/sco/file/1373816/dl?inline=> - The Mueller Report discusses Russian interference activities, which highlight the strategic efforts Russia employs to disrupt Western systems, including potential energy infrastructure.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langeled_pipeline> - This Wikipedia page provides details about the Langeled pipeline, including its critical role in supplying gas to the UK, which is a focus of the article's discussion on energy dependence.
* <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/energy-security-and-supply> - Ofgem's publications often discuss energy security and supply in the UK, including strategies to manage dependence on international energy sources and mitigate risks to national energy infrastructure.
* <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/ww3-fears-brits-warned-prep-35003281> - Please view link - unable to able to access data