NH Houses of Worship

Emergency Preparedness: A Community Approach

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Where Do We Start?

1. Recognize and respond to what is happening (natural and human caused)
2. Fully commit to the Emergency Preparedness (EP) needs of your house of worship
3. Utilize a “whole community approach” to safety (utilize subject matter experts)
Who Can Help Me?

1. Your town’s police and fire departments - be on a first-name basis
2. Your town’s building inspector
3. Your town’s Emergency Management Director (EMD)
4. Your insurance provider
5. Neighboring HOWs & denominations
Where Are We Vulnerable?

Think with an “All-Hazards” Approach

- Medical Emergencies/Pandemic
- Cyber Security (D.O.S., fishing attacks, etc.)
- Social Media Vulnerabilities
- Vandalism / Theft / Hate Crimes
- Loss of Personally Identifiable Information
- Abuse of the Vulnerable (children, elderly)
- Fire
- Active Threat (intent to injure or kill)
- Suspicious Packages / Bomb Threats
# How Do We Tackle Everything?

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What Tools are Available?

• Your Local Fire and Police Depts (historical and geographic knowledge)
• HSEM’s HSEM’s Resource Center
  https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=5994 let’s take a look!
• FEMA HOW resources
• DHS’ Links, Templates, Documents
• Insurance Companies’ Resources
But, There’s Just So Much!

- **Crawl** (discussion)
- **Walk** (implementation)
- **Run** (execution practice)
Let's Get a Team Focused on This...

- Discuss an approach strategy with your leadership...**get involvement**, not just "buy-in".
- Talk about intentions with your congregation...**build more involvement**.
- Pull a team together...**utilize involvement**.
- Tackle "low hanging fruit" first, then bigger goals...**maximize involvement**.
Teach, Train, Exercise...Repeat

• **TEACH** an all-hazards approach to EP.
• **TRAIN** all staff (paid and volunteer).
• **EXERCISE** your plans (Workshop, TTX, Functional).
• **REPEAT** (repetition builds capacity, turnover depletes capacity).
A Few EP Core Capabilities

- Planning
- Situational Awareness
- Threat / Hazard Identification
- Communication and Coordination
- Public Information (internal and external)
What is an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)?

• Emergency preparedness guidance document uniquely built and applied to your organization.
• Drives your EP training, budget, exercises and responses.
• Needs broad involvement
• Needs to be updated regularly.
What Next Steps Should We Take?

1. Have open discussions with your insurance company.
2. Invite fire and police to your facility.
4. Connect regularly with local houses of worship; compare notes and resources.
5. Get going on the items we discussed today.
How Can We Help You?

You have a committed community of EP professionals at the local, state and federal levels ready to help.

Let’s do this!