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NH Houses of Worship

Emergency Preparedness: A Whole Community Approach

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Where Do We Start?



1. Recognize what is happening in the world around us. *(both natural & human caused)*
2. Fully commit to Emergency Preparedness (EP).
(top to bottom)
3. Utilize a “whole community approach”.
(utilize subject matter experts)

Who Can Help Me?



- 1. Local police and fire departments**
- 2. Your town's building inspector and other officials, such as health officer**
- 3. Emergency Management Director (EMD)**
- 4. Your insurance provider**
- 5. Neighboring and national FBCOs**

Where Are We Vulnerable?



Think with an “All-Hazards” Approach

- Medical Emergencies
- Pandemic/Viral
- Cyber Security (*D.O.S., fishing attacks, etc.*)
- Social Media Vulnerabilities
- Vandalism / Theft / Hate Crimes
- Loss of Personally Identifiable Information (*PII*)
- Abuse of the Vulnerable (*children, elderly*)
- Fire
- Winter Weather (*slips and falls*)
- Active Threat (*intent to injure or kill*)
- Suspicious Packages / Bomb Threats

How Do We Tackle EVERYTHING?



Severity >>>

Frequency >>>

**High Frequency
Low Severity**

**High Frequency
High Severity**

**Low Frequency
Low Severity**

**Low Frequency
High Severity**

What Tools are Available?



- **Your Local Fire and Police Departments**
- **HSEM's Resource Center**
- **FEMA's FBCO Resources**
- **CISA's Links, Templates, Documents**
- **Your Insurance Company's Resources**

But...There's Just So Much!



- **Crawl** (discussion-workshops to develop plans)
- **Walk** (implementation-validate plans with discussion-based drills)
- **Run** (execution practice your plans, then revise as needed)
- **Determine ALL your stakeholders!**

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*)
- **RINSE & REPEAT** (*repetition builds capacity, turnover depletes capacity*)

A Few Emergency Preparedness (EP) Core Capabilities



- **Planning** (*internal and municipality*)
- **Mitigation** (*prevention*)
- **Situational Awareness**
- **Threat Hazard Identification & Planning**
- **Communication, Coordination**
- **Public Information** (*internal and external*)

What is an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)?



- EP guidance document **uniquely** built, **customized** and **applied** to your organization
- Drives your EP training, budget, equipment, exercises and responses
- Needs **broad stakeholder involvement**
- Needs to be **updated annually**

Real-World Action Steps?



1. **Have open, inclusive discussions**
2. **Invite local fire and police into your world**
3. **Perform self-assessment**
4. **Connect with other and affiliated local FBCOs; compare notes and resources.**
5. **Apply for annual federal Non-Profit Security Grant**
6. **Participate in emergency management classes (i.e. MGT 405, FEMA IS classes, and online webinars)**
7. **Attend or facilitate all-hazards exercises (tabletop and functional)**
8. **Join CERT, VOAD, Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. efforts to keep your community safe**
9. **Participate in your town's Emergency Operations Plan planning group**

Mobilize Ahead of Disasters



- **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)**

<https://youtu.be/TSWly6LQ2T0>

- **Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster**

<https://youtu.be/qhurBdMXraM> and
<https://youtu.be/yk-b8l0PUHY>

How Can We Help You?



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

Your Team can do this!