

All-Hazards Approach to Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning

There are many different types of disasters and it can be difficult to create an emergency preparedness plan that adequately addresses each hazard type. Emergency preparedness experts recommend all organizations adopt what is referred to as an “All-Hazards Approach” to emergency preparedness. An “All Hazards Approach” offers a comprehensive framework for planning, mitigating and responding to hazards of all types, including public health emergencies.

What is an All-Hazards Approach?

A comprehensive emergency preparedness framework that prepares an organization for unexpected events such as a pandemic. An “All Hazards Approach” increases an organization’s resiliency, the ability to bounce back from the effects of a disaster.

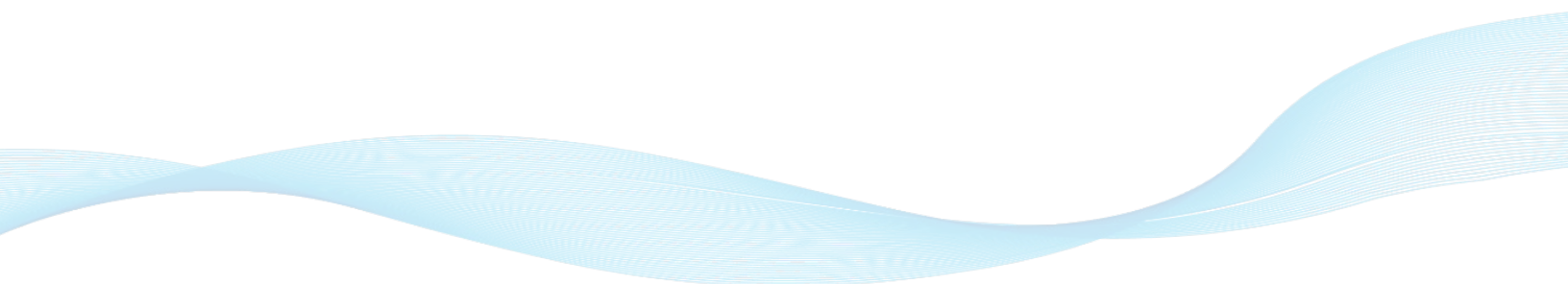
The All-Hazards Approach has three key components: hazard identification, vulnerability and impact.

- Hazard identification consists of identifying which hazards an organization is most likely to face.
- Vulnerability is the area(s) an organization is most susceptible to during or after a disaster. This may include staffing, communications, power or care or services.
- Impact is the potential disruption that a disaster could cause an organization.

The All-Hazards Approach is meant to provide a framework for an organization to navigate the four phases of a disaster, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, in order to keep customers, staff and the public safe.

- Preparedness is the process of identifying the personnel, training and equipment that will be necessary during a wide range of disasters.
- Mitigation involves identifying hazards and the efforts taken to reduce the impact of those hazards. This may include installing generators in the event of a power-outage, creating social-distancing spaces for customer s interactions or regularly testing all fire detection measures.
- Response is the effort taken during a disaster to prevent loss of life and property, as well as efforts taken to ensure continuity of operations.
- Recovery is the attempt to return an organization to its prior operating capacity.





The All-Hazards Approach is an integral part of a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan. There are several other components that should also be included in the plan.

- Communication plan
- Training and testing (drills)
- Policies and procedures
- Evacuation, sheltering in place and staffing
- Alternative sources of energy, food and water
- Transportation

Interested in Learning More About the All Hazards Approach?

The following resources will be helpful in creating or reviewing your organization's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan:

- [National Preparedness](#), FEMA Emergency Management
- [Hospital Emergency Preparedness: An Online Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#), EduMed
- [Plan and Prepare for Disasters](#), Homeland Security
- [Plan Ahead for Disasters](#), Ready.gov
- [Technical Resources](#), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) TRACIE