



Disaster Resilience Standards

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Purpose of this section

- To provide an overview of existing emergency preparedness standards
- To provide a context for development of a disaster resilience standard
- To introduce a “strawman” standard for community/faith-based disaster resilience

What is a standard?

- For our purposes: a standard is a model, established by general consent, to measure the quality of disaster resilience improvement.

Why have a standard?

- A benefit in developing and sustaining disaster resilience activities.
- A consensus definition of what elements should be included as part of these efforts.
- A tool for conducting a self-assessment of the program.
- Demonstrate competency, resilience, and preparedness to others.

How is a standard developed?

- Open environment
- Accessible and responsive to the requirements of various stakeholders
- All interested and affected parties have an opportunity to participate in a standard's development

How is standard evaluated

- Objective (yes/no; black/white)
- Subjective (determination influenced by training or background of reviewer)

Existing Standards

Existing emergency preparedness standards include:

- National Fire Protection Association 1600
- Emergency Management Accreditation Program
- Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations
- DHS Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program

NFPA 1600

- In existence since early 1990's
- Developed from a business continuity and recovery perspective
- 83 standards in 19 topic areas
- Endorsed by 9/11 Commission for private sector preparedness

EMAP

- Developed initially in late 1990's
- Originally based on NFPA 1600
- Now an independent standard, targeted primarily to state and local emergency management programs
- 63 standards in 18 topic areas
- Being used by FEMA for baseline assessments of state programs

Joint Commission

- Originally started with hospitals
- Different standards for different types of health care organizations
- Standards for ambulatory clinics address both “organizational” and “patient care” functions
- Accreditation may be a regulatory requirement

PS Prep

- US DHS sponsored effort to identify voluntary private sector preparedness standards and certification programs
- Goal is to encourage creation of standards, provide for DHS adoption of various standards, & promote certification of organizations with targeted standards
- Nonprofits are viewed like small business

Contributors to disaster resilience

Standards build from research on nonprofit preparedness/resilience:

- Organizational crisis readiness
- Achieving multiple dimensions of preparedness
- Subset of general risk management

CBO/FBO preparedness tools

Several existing tools for CBO/FBO preparedness that also help inform what should be included in a standard:

- CARD disaster plan model
- SF CARD, CADRE, and other collaboratives
- Seattle/King County Vulnerable Population Action Team project

Standard is a goal

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- A standard should be an achievable goal and manageable in number
- Not just reflect current state of preparedness
- But also not so burdensome that progress cannot be made

Proposed standard elements

1. Disaster mission
2. Hazard identification and assessment
3. Facility resilience
4. Disaster operations plans
5. Disaster-specific agreements
6. Donations and volunteer management
7. Training and exercises
8. Client and community education
9. Financial resilience, stability and planning