

# **Agency Emergency Plan**

A Simplified Version for Service Provider Agencies



In a major emergency resulting from natural or man-made disasters, response systems such as police, fire and hospitals will be overwhelmed. Officials from all levels of government and the American Red Cross tell us we should be prepared to be on our own for the first 72-hours.

Please perform a quick review of this plan every 6 months to ensure it stays current.

Trainer: Christina E. Smith

Permission was granted to Citizen Corps, Volunteer WV, and The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley to use and modify this plan that was originally produced by the **Bay Area Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Seniors and People with Disabilities**. It was adapted from Creating a Workable Disaster Plan for Your Agency which was produced by **VOICE of Contra Costa County** and from the Earthquake Preparedness Guidelines for Large Retirement Complexes and Large Residential Care Facilities which was produced by the **Bay Area Regional Earthquake Preparedness Project**. Significant changes and additions were made by **Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters**. Finally, minor changes were made to the plan to better suit the concerns of food pantries by Nick Maryns, Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow with the **Congressional Hunger Center** in Washington, DC, and **Solid Ground** in Seattle, WA.

# A. Disaster Mission Statement Make sure you know what role you are planning to play in a disaster

•	Who are you	going to	be for	your	clients	and	community
	when disaster s	strikes?					

- Does your current mission statement encompass how you see your agency functioning in a disaster?
- Think about your commitments and your resource limitations and create a disaster mission statement.

## **B.** Preparing Staff for Emergencies

Make sure your staff is mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to respond

In an emergency, the first concern of staff will be the safety and welfare of family members.

- 1. Have all staff and key volunteers trained in basic emergency preparedness on a regular basis.
- 2. Encourage and support staff and key volunteers to have a family or home emergency plan (see note below). This increases the likelihood that staff and their families can cope with the disaster without outside help.
- 3. Your agency will want to ensure that all staff members have an opportunity to check on their homes and family members as soon as possible following a disaster.

<u>Note</u>: Organizations like your local Health Department, American Red Cross and your local Office of Emergency Management usually offer personal preparedness trainings and other courses such as First Aid and CPR.

## C. Personnel

#### Make sure you have enough people to do what needs doing for a response

De	termine your staffing requirements for post-disaster response.
١.	Realistically, how many staff/volunteers will continue working after a disaster if it strikes during work?
2.	If a disaster strikes on a weekday, but before the workday begins?
3.	If a disaster strikes on a weekend?
4.	Which staff live within walking distance of your agency/organization?
	Which staff should automatically report to work in the event of a disaster?
6.	Who else may be able to help operate your agency? Board members? Other building or agency staff? Staff from other non-profit agencies that live near your agency? Talk with them to make prior arrangements.
7.	In what ways will you have to alter your services if you have less volunteer and staff support?
	a
	b
	c
	d
	e
8.	Develop a list of mobile and home telephone numbers for staff for emergency use. (Update every 6-months.)
9.	To support the work of staff in an emergency, we will use volunteers as follows:
	a
	b
	C
	d
	e

#### **D. Volunteers**

Make sure you know the best ways to use / work with volunteers in a disaster

Kn	Know how you will appropriately recruit, task and manage volunteers.			
I.	Are your current volunteers appropriate for disaster related work?			
2.	Do your current practices of recruiting or accepting volunteers include your disaster preparedness and response needs?			
3.	How many of your core volunteers live within walking distance of your agency? Do you expect that any of these volunteers would come to your agency to help out in the wake of a disaster? If so, who?			
4.	What important activities (that keep your agency able to provide services) can be assigned to spontaneous volunteers (i.e. volunteers who arrive at a disaster who are pre-affiliated with an existing emergency response agency like the Red Cross, VOAD, Salvation Army, etc.)? What activities <b>should not</b> be assigned to spontaneous volunteers?			
5.	What safety and/or legal considerations should you include in your plan? Consider: do you have proper insurance for volunteers, do you need background checks on volunteers, is any specialized training or knowledge required for working with your agency or clients, etc.?			
6.	Do you have someone in charge of volunteers? Who (else) might take that role for new volunteers?			

For more information on utilization/mobilization of volunteers in an emergency or disaster, contact your local volunteer agency.

## E. Meeting the Needs of the People You Serve

Make sure you can address the basic needs of staff, clients and volunteers

١.	How will a disaster impact those you serve and where will they turn for support?
2.	What are the special needs of the people you serve? Are these needs of the group or of individuals? Do you know who to call to learn more about meeting the needs of these individuals if needed?
3.	Suppose an emergency occurs while clients are at your agency. How many total clients would you have to manage? (Look at both maximum client load and minimum staff availability)
4.	How will you find out about the condition of people you serve with home deliveries?
5.	How will you prioritize who you serve in the wake of a disaster – when your supplies may be cut off and client demand is high? How will you communicate and carry out these priorities?
6.	In an emergency, who else needs information about the status of people you serve? List the most critical contacts that need to be made. Be sure to have all necessary phone, cellular phone and pager numbers for each contact.
7.	Who else will be able to assist your clients? The Red Cross? The Salvation Army? Other service provider agencies? Community Centers? Where might you be able to refer your clients for assistance? Be sure to have all the necessary contacts.
8.	What else will be needed (e.g., blankets, first aid supplies, special equipment, etc.)? Where can you get these items:
a	Item: Location:
b	. Item: Location:
C	Item: Location:

Also consider: What skills can you instill in your clients to let them take part in your preparedness and response efforts as full partners and helpers?

## F. On-Site Supplies Cache

#### Make sure you have preparedness supplies available

Create and maintain an onsite cache of emergency preparedness supplies. The exact contents will depend on the size and diversity of your staff, volunteers, clients and potential visitors. Remember to consider special needs additions such as medication.

Store these supplies in multiple locations so if one cache becomes unusable or unreachable, you will still have options. The supply cache complements your agency go-kit. Some basic contents of an on-site supply cache are:

- Food and water
- First aid supplies
- Lights/Flashlights
- Radio(s)
- Batteries
- Whistles
- Blankets
- Garbage bags
- Duct tape
- Extra cash

- Necessary medicines\*
- Alcohol hand cleaner\*
- Thermometer\*
- Personal hygiene supplies\*
- Gloves, extra clothing, sturdy shoes
- Deck of cards
- Crescent wrench (for utility shut-off)
- Other tools

- Ponchos or other rain gear
- Matches
- Paper, pens and markers (in water-proof containers)
- Rope
- Utility knife
- •

Perishable supplies, such as food, water and medicine, need to be replaced regularly. One way to do this is by "cycling" the food and water – eat supplies while they are still good, and put new ones in the cache. "Non-perishable" have a much longer shelf life before they go bad.

\* Especially recommended for Pan Flu preparedness.

## G. Agency Go-Kit

#### Make sure you can operate even if you evacuate

If you need to evacuate your facility, an Agency Go-Kit will allow you to continue providing your most vital services wherever you go. This small, portable container should hold copies of every vital document as well as some basic supplies such as pen and paper.

Some basic contents of an Agency Go-Kit are:

- Your disaster plan
- Insurance documentation
- The deed or lease for your facilities
- Legal identification, such as your taxpayer ID number and evidence of exemption status
- Bank information, including all of your account numbers, including personnel contacts
- Documentation for your emergency line of credit
- Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
- Contact and Emergency Contact information for your staff and key contacts
- Some cash, including coins for phones

You may wish to maintain more than one kit. Creating two is no harder than creating one, and an off-site backup may be what ensures that you have needed records.

# **H. Facility Preparation**

## Make sure your physical environment supports your safety

	Assigned To	DATE DONE
Bolt heavy cabinets, bookshelves or other furniture to wall studs		
Secure computers, fax, equipment to desk or tables		
Secure pictures and other wall hangings by using safety hooks		
Clear exits, pathways and safe spaces		
Lower heavy items to bottom shelves		
Remove fire and chemical hazards		
Install smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, cabinet latches		
Label fire exits and safety supplies		
Clearly mark your gas and water shut-off valves. Post clear simple instructions for shutting off each one (in all languages needed).		
Keep a conveniently located set of tools to facilitate prompt gas shut-off. Tools should include both pipe and crescent wrenches.		
ch your facility and note vital emergency resources including:		
□ Fire extinguishers □ First Aid Supplies □ Go kits □ Water shutoff □ Tool kits □ Gas shutoff □ Supply Cache □ □	□ Gener □ Docur □	e routes rator(s) ments safe
	Secure computers, fax, equipment to desk or tables  Secure pictures and other wall hangings by using safety hooks  Clear exits, pathways and safe spaces  Lower heavy items to bottom shelves  Remove fire and chemical hazards  Install smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, cabinet latches  Label fire exits and safety supplies  Clearly mark your gas and water shut-off valves. Post clear simple instructions for shutting off each one (in all languages needed).  Keep a conveniently located set of tools to facilitate prompt gas shut-off. Tools should include both pipe and crescent wrenches.  cch your facility and note vital emergency resources including:  Fire extinguishers  Go kits  Go kits  Gos shutoff  Gas shutoff	Bolt heavy cabinets, bookshelves or other furniture to wall studs  Secure computers, fax, equipment to desk or tables  Secure pictures and other wall hangings by using safety hooks  Clear exits, pathways and safe spaces  Lower heavy items to bottom shelves  Remove fire and chemical hazards  Install smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, cabinet latches  Label fire exits and safety supplies  Clearly mark your gas and water shut-off valves. Post clear simple instructions for shutting off each one (in all languages needed).  Keep a conveniently located set of tools to facilitate prompt gas shut-off. Tools should include both pipe and crescent wrenches.  cch your facility and note vital emergency resources including:  cch your facility and note vital emergency resources including:  Clearly mark your gas and water shut-off valves. Post clear simple instructions for shutting off each one (in all languages needed).  Keep a conveniently located set of tools to facilitate prompt gas shut-off. Tools should include both pipe and crescent wrenches.

# I. Signage

## Make sure your safety and preparedness tools are well-marked

Make preparedness visible! Clear and visible signs indicating safety tools, exits and emergency instructions will help people to keep themselves safe while at your agency.







WATER SHUT-OFF







RALLY POINT













These and other preparedness signs are available at www.FirstVictims.org/tools

## J. Neighborhood Resources

## Make sure you know the local resources - they may be your only source

7.		o not have a back-up generator a written agreement with this s				
8.	If the ph	nones at your agency are not w	orking, where	e are the	nearest pay phones?	
9.	Where	is the nearest public health clin	ic?			
	Clinic Nar	me:	Address:			Phone:
10.	Where	is the nearest place to go for h	elp if phones	are not w	orking?	
	Place Nan	ne:	Address:			Phone:
11.	Where	is the nearest fire station and c	lo they know	about you	ı?	
	Station Na	ame:	Address:			Phone:
12.	Where i	is the nearest police station an	d do they kno	ow about ;	you?	
	Station Na	ame:	Address:			Phone:
	ke	eighborhood. Note these property resource framework Office of Emergency Manager Government Offices Fire Station	·		veterinary offices pharmacy/drug stores	nt:
		Police Station		ро	ssible gathering points	S
	_ _ _	Red Cross Partner agencies Volunteer mobilization cente	r	_ 	church, mosque, synago community centers school shelters	gue, etc.
	foo	od/ water			public library	
		food pantries				
		meal programs/soup kitchens restaurants grocery stores food banks/distributors		<b>su</b>   	pplies hardware stores disaster stores sports/camping stores "big box" stores dollar stores	
		edical Hospital clinic				

# K. Evacuation / Transportation Make sure you can evacuate people safely from your location

#### Fire, hazardous material spills or structural damage may require you to evacuate your building.

- I. Are there people who will need assistance evacuating your facility? Remember to assign staff and volunteers to help these people with their evacuation.
- 2. If your facility must be evacuated, assign a staff person the responsibility of taking a head count to ensure all staff, volunteers and clients have exited.
- 3. Practice your evacuation plan.
- 4. Keep an "Agency Go-Kit". Include copies of your emergency plan, action checklists, phone rosters, copies of vital documents, credit cards, etc.
- 5. Post a notice indicating where you have gone.

The following suggestions anticipate that you must evacuate your building and that you are responsible for the care and shelter of the people you serve.

6. Locate and secure a temporary shelter to be used (consider churches, nearby community centers, schools, other residential facilities). You may want to develop mutual aid agreements (memoranda of understanding – MOU's) with these sites.

Temporary Shelter Name: _					
Address:					
	Phone:				
sheltering your program particip	n for letting the authorities, family and friends know where you are pants. "Date created" should appear on this and all lists and documents. The transportation for moving your program participants to your temporary necessary.				
Alternative Transportation:					
Address:					
	Assign responsibility for the care of your clients at the alternate site(s). Identify this person or persons.				
a. Name:	Location:				
b.Name:	Location:				
10. If evacuated, what will your clien	nts need that may not be available in the temporary shelter?				
a. Item/Service:	Location:				
b. Item/Service:	Location:				
c. Item/Service:	Location:				

# L. Your Supplies & Ensuring Service Continuation

Make sure you are clear on your service priorities, anticipate what supplies you'll have and how you'll stay stocked

<u>Remember</u>: Knowing your priorities as an agency makes everything else fall into place. In crisis or opportunity, if you are clear on your priorities you can make the best decisions for your agency.

What	is needed to conti	nue essential providing serv	ices after a disaster?			
1.	List the primary serv	vices you will continue to provid	de following an emergency?			
	a					
	b					
	c					
2.	What are the critica	l material resources necessary t	to maintain these operations?			
	a					
	b					
	c					
3.	emergency, to maint	ain operations and to ensure th	, , ,			
	Name:	Phone:	Agreement:			
	Name:	Phone:	Agreement:			
	Name:	Phone:	Agreement:			
	Name:	Phone:	Agreement:			
	Name:	Phone:	Agreement:			
disast needs	er. It is important and how to support Some questions to a	for agencies working with their recovery following a sk include:				
	What are the predictable needs of the people you serve in emergencies?					
		of the people you serve require o consider providing new or diff	you to expand services in a disaster's aftermate ferent services?	th?		
5.	How many days of fo	ood/water/medications would y	ou be able to provide to clients if your supply	was cut off?		
6.	If your power goes	out, how long will your cooler(s	s) and freezer(s) safely keep contents?			

What are key vulnerabilities in your supply chain? Consider: usual shipment routes may be blocked, your supplier or distributor may be out of commission, or communications may be impossible.  8. What steps can you take to plan around these possibilities?  a. What is your distributor's emergency plan?  b. What are alternate routes shipments could take?  c. What is your suppliers' contact information?  d. Other steps to take:  How will the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the local government, etc., manage their supplies? How can you collaborate with them effectively?  D. How will you manage donations received in the wake of a disaster? Have you communicated with potential donors to ensure that they give appropriate donations and help you in a productive way?	7.	Where could you store extra supplies off-site so that you could access it in an emergency? Consider creating agreements with churches, community centers, storage facilities.
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## M. Communication (Part 1)

Make sure you can communicate with staff, clients, funders and your community

Communications will make or break a disaster response. From a simple note on the door identifying your new location to a Public Information Officer correcting news reports about your agency, communication is the key to letting people make the right decisions.

_ _ _	Agency Operational Status reports Where else clients could turn for help Damage assessment Services offered or changed Funds needed Volunteers needed Other needs	<del></del>
TO W	HOM are you communicating?	
	Disaster services partners	
	Disability provider agencies	
	Your suppliers or distributors	
	otali or voidirecers	
	Clients	
	Board and Funders	
	Media and General public	
	should communicate the message?	
	Ensure they have proper training	
	Ensure they share consistent message	
	should you communicate?	
	Electronic	
	Paper, fliers etc.	
	Verbally Phone or Voicemail	
	Priorie or Voicemaii	
_		
	can you do or prepare in advance?	
	, , , , , ,	
u	Anticipate helpful information for clients, create fliers in advance	
	Disaster/Emergency response press release	
	Email, phone, pager, cell phone and fax lists	
	Take crisis / risk communication training	
	<b>o</b>	

## N. Communication (Part 2)

### Make sure you know all the communication tools available to you

Mastering how you send and receive information will help you in both crisis and opportunity. A variety of options is the key to maintaining communications.

**Disaster Communication Tools** 

There are many communication tools we don't normally consider that may become useful if a disaster

cuts off your normal channels.	,
□ Bulletin Board/White Board	<ul> <li>Megaphones / Bullhorns</li> </ul>
□ Carbon Paper / NCR paper	□ Pagers
□ CB Radios	<ul> <li>Palm Pilots / Blackberries</li> </ul>
□ Cell Phones	<ul><li>POTS Telephones</li></ul>
□ Digital Telephones	<ul><li>Public Signage</li></ul>
□ Drums	□ Runners
□ Flag Pole	<ul><li>Walkie-Talkies</li></ul>
□ Ham Radios	<ul><li>Whistles</li></ul>
٥	
Comr	nunity Outreach Options
What are all the different ways you can speak advantages, and may help you reach people yo	to your community? Different methods have different ou had not reached before.
□ American Sign Language (ASL)	☐ In-person events, workshops or classes
□ Computers : DSL or dial-up	□ Language Translators

□ Door-to-door canvassing or home visits

□ Information Phone lines (such as 800 numbers)

□ E-mail and listserves

□ Fact Sheets or FAOs

□ Fax Machines/WinFax

Mailing lists: brochures, fliers

Video / cassette tape / CD-ROM / DVD

Radio

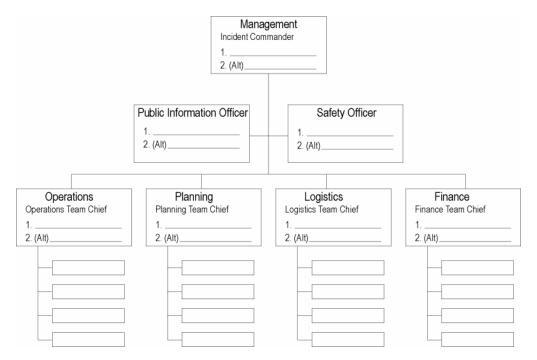
Television

Websites

## O. ICS (Part I)

#### Make sure you know the nation's universal response system

The National Incident Management System is the Federal standard for responding to disasters. Understanding the Incident Command System that is the core of NIMS will allow you to organize for managing any situation, coordinate with your community partners, and "speak the language" of the professional responders – which makes you that much easier to help.



**Incident Command:** Leads the response; appoints and empowers team leaders; sets tone and standards for response. Encourages teamwork and communications.

Safety and Security Officer: Focuses on the safety of all people responding to the incident.

**Public Information Officer:** Works with the media and distributes messages to the public and local community.

**Operation Team:** Handles key actions including first aid, search and rescue, fire suppression and securing the site.

Planning Team: Gathers information, thinks ahead and keeps all team members informed and communicating.

**Logistics Team:** Finds, distributes, and stores all necessary resources (supplies and people) to respond appropriately.

**Finance/ Administration Team:** Tracks all expenses, claims and activities and is the record keeper for the incident.

## P. ICS (Part 2)

Considering who might do well at certain functions is an excellent tool for understanding NIMS and getting people used to the idea. Be careful, though: you never know who will be part of your disaster response team, so be prepared to assign roles when they are needed.

Primary Functions	
Incident Commander	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	Phone:
Alt. Phone:	Alt. Phone:
Operations Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	
Alt. Phone:	Alt. Phone:
Planning Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	Phone:
Alt. Phone:	
Logistics Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	
Alt. Phone:	
Finance / Admin Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	
Alt. Phone:	
	Support Functions
Safety and Security Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	Phone:
Alt. Phone:	Alt. Phone:
Public Information Officer	
Name:	Name:
Phone:	Phone:
Alt. Phone:	Alt. Phone:

### Q. Financial Resources

#### Make sure you know your financial assets, limitations and commitments

It is a good idea for your organization to be aware of its cost of normal operations; estimate cost increases that might arise from emergencies and be familiar with eligibility and other prerequisites for aid and reimbursements from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies.

Some topics to explore include the following:

- 1. Copies of Financial Support Documentation to have ready
  - Insurance policies
  - The deed or lease for your facilities
  - Bank information, including all of your account numbers, including personnel contacts
  - Legal identification, such as your taxpayer ID number and evidence of exemption status
  - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)
- 2. Liquid Assets
  - How much cash do you keep in "petty cash?"
  - Do you have \$15 \$20 in coins for pay phones?
- 3. Credit Cards / Lines of Credit
  - What credit cards does your agency own?
  - Where are they?
  - What are the limits of each?
  - Who can sign on each?
  - Do they have emergency credit extensions?
  - Do you have a line of credit immediately available?
  - Who can access the money?

<u>Reminder</u>: Keep this information updated; be sure it reflects any staff or policy changes!