Application Instruction Manual

Event Strategic Review Application



Instructional manual on the interaction and utilization of the Event Strategic Review Application (ESRA)

ESRA

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Introduction

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), partnering with stakeholders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has developed the Event Strategic Review (ESR). The purpose of the ESR is to utilize the EMAP independent peer-review process to collect and analyze data that will support and assist the FEMA National Preparedness Assessment Division (NPAD) in meeting their Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and Remedial Action Management Program goals. The goal of the ESR is to collect and identify priority issues, corrective actions, lessons learned and best practices for improvement of existing after action processes used for exercises and real world events.

In order to facilitate the purpose and goals of the ESR, EMAP has developed the Event Strategic Review Application (ESRA) to assist in guiding participating Programs self-review and documentation sharing associated with the ESR data criterion. The goal of the ESRA is to provide an opportunity for the participating Programs to share relevant data criterion, develop an objective view and build a summary picture of how the Program is managing Exercises and Real World Events and utilizing that data to enhance the overall Program mission.

The ESRA, a web-based application, applies existing standards and data analysis inquiry to review event documentation pursuant to EMAP standards 4.3: Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis and EMAP standard 4.14: Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Actions. Documentation to be reviewed and/or considered:

- Exercise Events (Tabletops, Functional & Full-Scale)
 - State Preparedness Report(s)
 - After Action Report(s)
 - Improvement Plan(s)
 - o Corrective Action Plan(s)
 - Training & Exercise Work Plan(s)
- Real World Events
 - Incident Action Plan(s)
 - After Action Report(s)
 - Improvement Plan(s)
 - o Corrective Action Plan(s)
- Any documentation that validates the completion of Corrective Action Plan(s) and Improvement Plan(s) objectives.

Criteria that will be collected and analyzed will span from January 1, 2007 to present:

- Event details (date, location, type of event/exercise, etc.)
- Top 10 Corrective Action items currently being improved upon
- Corrective Actions that have been resolved within the last year
- Lessons Learned within the last year
- Agency funding for Exercise(s)

- Identified strengths and areas of improvement
- EMAP Standard 4.3: Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis
- EMAP Standard 4.14: Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Actions

Definitions:

- 1. A "Program" is defined as a system that provides for management and coordination of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery activities. The system encompasses all organizations, agencies, departments, and individuals having responsibilities for these activities.
- 2. An "Event" is defined as an occurrence of significant involvement that includes multiple agencies and/or jurisdictions that spans multiple operational periods that produces both information and formal event documentation.

If you have any questions please contact the following EMAP Staff Members for assistance:

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Usage

Accessing and Connecting to the Application

The URL for the application is http://esra.emaponline.org. Initially, in order to access the application, you must be invited via email by EMAP Staff. The email message forwarded to you will be delivered from "emap@csg.org" and will be in the following format:

User Name,

You have been invited to join ESRA. If you wish to accept, please click on the following link http://esra.emaponline.org/users/73-User-
Name/accept_invitation?key=1dbdd43f16493e098f0057e6553a584fd9fa9782

Thank you,

The ESRA team.

By clicking the link you will have accepted the invitation and a new webpage will open in your default web browser. This webpage will ask you to set your password; this password must be at least six (6) characters long and cannot be all lower case letters.



Figure 1 - Password Creation

Once you have entered and confirmed your desired password, click "Accept Invitation". A confirmation page will display with your email address spelled out in plain English (this is a security measure to prevent spamming) informing you that your account is now active.



Figure 2 – Sign-Up Confirmation

The Home tab will open an introductory default page. The page will contain pertinent information regarding ESRA. Below is the default page you will see upon logging in – see figure 4 for the login screen.

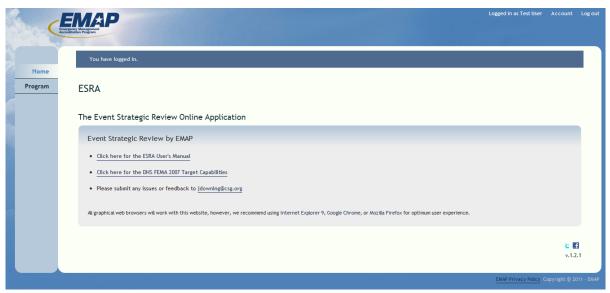


Figure 3 - Home Screen



Figure 4 – Login Screen

Initiating the Self-Review

The first step in the process is to input information about your Program. To do this, click on the "Programs" tab near the top of the screen. This page will allow you to create a New Program by clicking on the "Create New Program" button. As a reminder, remember that the "Program" is defined as a system that provides for management and coordination of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery activities. The system encompasses all organizations, agencies, departments, and individuals having responsibilities for these activities.



Figure 4 - Starting a new Program

The New Program page requests general information regarding your Program and asks several questions regarding your Program's Corrective Action Process. The first set of fields pertains to the emergency management program as a whole. These fields include the name of the Program's Agency, jurisdiction and address.

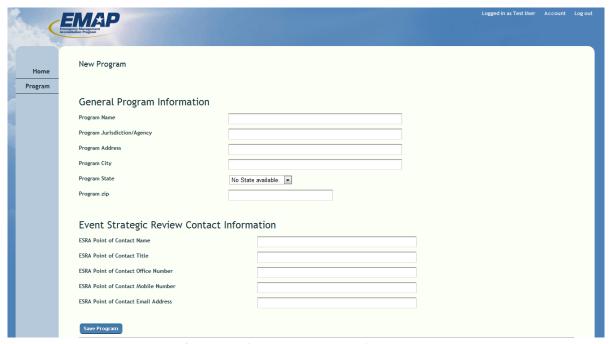


Figure 5 – Program Contact Information (New Program Page)

The next set of fields on this page pertains to the Program's point of contact information for the Event Strategic Review Project. The fields pertain to the main point of contact, an individual who is responsible for coordination of the ESRA process including the Self-Review, obtaining documentation, and other scheduling and oversight activities. Please note that the ESRA point of contact may be different than those used in the General Program Information fields above. In addition, the ESRA point of contact may also be different than your EMAP Accreditation Manager for the EMAP Baseline and/or Accreditation Assessment. Please use the "Save Program" button to periodically save your data while on this page, remember - "Save early, save often"!

After the contact information, the form asks questions about the Program's Corrective Action Process. Please provide information regarding the Program's emergency management's corrective action process. The first three questions are yes/no selections. There is text below the check boxes that will help you in determining whether or not a check should go in each box. A good rule of thumb is a check in the box means yes.

A Continuous Corrective Action Process is a process where a Program develops improvement plans and tracks corrective actions to address the capabilities identified in plans and tested in exercises or real world events. Using this data to reassess and revise plans and protocols contributes to the beginning of the next Preparedness Cycle by ensuring that updated strategies and plans can be used to inform new preparedness-building activities. This Process provides for overall evaluation and improvement of mission and task performance and is crucial to informing risk assessments, managing vulnerabilities, allocating resources, etc.

The Continuous Corrective Action Process includes development, implementation and documentation of the following:

- Program observations, recommendations and corrective actions
- Tracking, prioritization and analyzation of corrective actions
- Resolution of identified deficiencies and revision of relevant Program documentation,

For these fields, please answer yes or no as to if the Program has a continuous Corrective Action Process in place which is documented and regularly reviews the Corrective Actions and makes adjustments as necessary; if the Process includes taking observation and recommendations and developing corrective actions; if the corrective actions are prioritized, tracked through completion and analyzed by program managers.

In the Corrective Action Process Summary field please provide a description of the current Process being used by your Agency.

In the Resolved Corrective Actions field please provide a list of corrective actions that have been resolved within the last calendar year.

When the form has been completed, click on the "Submit Program Information" button.

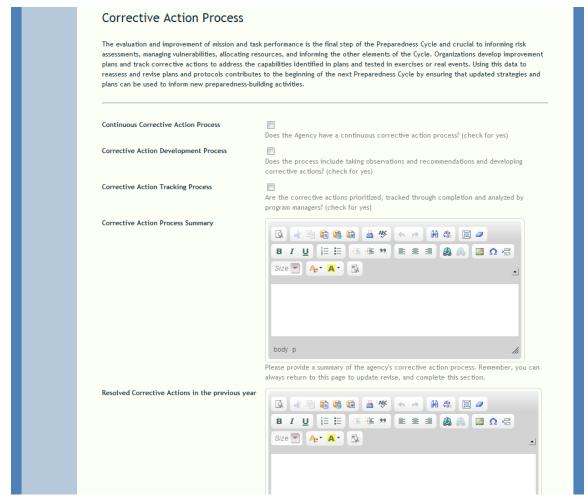


Figure 7 – Entering Corrective Action Information

If you need to leave any of the fields blank, you can always return to this page later. To return and edit information on this page, first click the Program Tab on the left side of the screen. Under the name of the Program you would like to edit, click on the "Edit Program" Button presented below the Program name.



Figure 8- Edit Program Button

Once the information about the Program has been entered and saved, the next page will present a summary of the Program's information and provide areas to add information about the Exercise Plan(s), Disaster Declaration(s), EMAP Standard areas 4.3 and 4.14, provide an opportunity for documentation uploads and add Event specific information. Adding information about the areas on the right-hand side of the webpage (Exercise Plans, Disaster Declarations, etc) is essentially the same as performed when starting a new Program, click on the button with "Open" or "New" and you will be presented with a new page to enter information relevant to that area.

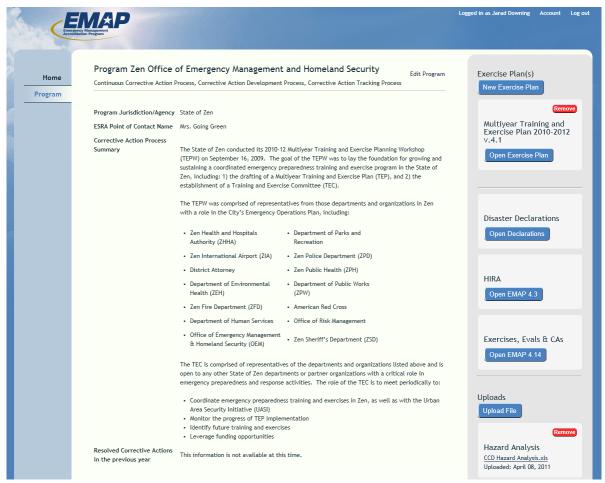


Figure 9 – Program view page

Entering Exercise Plan(s)

Click the "New Exercise Plan" button (located on top right side of page) to bring up the form for inputting an exercise plan. Each exercise plan needs to be entered individually. The new form asks for information about the exercise plan and has three fields, Exercises, Exercise Priorities and Target Capabilities; which have buttons labeled with plus '+' signs. You can add additional or remove Exercise Priorities by clicking on the '+' and '-' buttons. When you are completed with entering the Exercise Plan, please click "Save Exercise Program" at the bottom of the webpage. Again, if you need to input more than one plan you can return to the Program View page and click "New Exercise Plan" under Exercise Plans found on the right hand side.



Figure 10 - Exercise Plan Form

Once the exercise plan(s) have been saved, you will be redirected back to the Program View page.

Entering Disaster Declarations

FEMA lists all the federal disaster declarations on their website

(http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema), use the search feature to find the disasters for your State since 2007. The application has a link to the FEMA website so you can find this information easily. Once you have found the list of disaster declarations you can copy and paste each one individually from the FEMA website into the ESRA. After entering a disaster declaration, click the plus '+' sign to enter additional declarations.



Figure 11 - FEMA Website

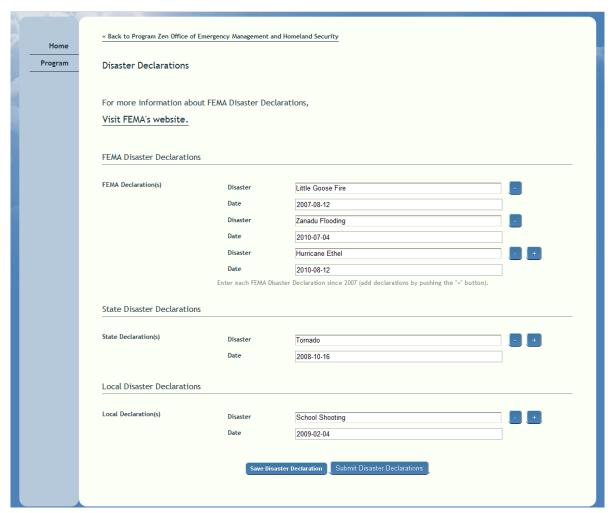


Figure 12 – Entering Disaster Declarations

Below the FEMA Disaster Declarations, enter disaster declarations for the state and local jurisdiction, if appropriate for your Program.

Click on the save button at the bottom of the webpage to save the data you have entered. Once you are finished, click the Submit Disaster Declarations button, and you will be redirected to the Program View page.

EMAP 4.3

This section pertains to Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Consequence Analysis.

The first step in effective planning is performing a Hazard Analysis, which is going through the process of identifying the natural and human caused hazards that potentially impact the jurisdiction and the level of risk they represent. Hazards are natural, technological, or civil threats to people, property, environment, and Program operations. A hazard creates a potential for damage. Risk is the probability and frequency of a hazard occurring. A Hazard Analysis begins with the listing of hazards and continues

with determination of risk. EMAP, FEMA, NEMA, and IAEM all advocate an "all-hazards" approach, which is based on the fact that many emergency management functions are appropriate to a range of hazards. Knowing what could happen, the likelihood of it happening, and having some idea the magnitude of the problems that could arise, are essential ingredients for emergency planning. The first step is for the jurisdiction to identify potential hazards and to determine the risk and vulnerability each of those hazards could have on people, property, and the environment and Program operations. Please note that all hazards and risks that are identified should also be addressed in the jurisdictions emergency response planning and mitigation efforts.

For each hazard identified in the HIRA a consequence analysis should be completed. The Consequence Analysis, at a minimum, should consider impact on the following:

- Public
- Responders
- Continuity of Operations including continued delivery of services
- Property
- Facilities
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Economic condition of the jurisdiction
- Public confidence in the jurisdictions governance

The first field, a check box, indicates whether or not the Program's Exercise program, that was previously identified, is consistent with the list of hazards that have been identified, followed by a text field to describe how the Program's completed exercises relate to the HIRA. The final area of this form allows the list of hazards to be entered. Use the button with a plus '+' sign to expand the section and add additional hazards. The list of hazards provided in the ESRA should be consistent with the list of hazards provided in the Program's Mitigation Plan and Emergency Operations Plan. Along with each hazard, please enter any consequence analysis information associated with the hazard. To enter multiple consequences use the button with the plus '+' located to the right of the consequence analysis field.

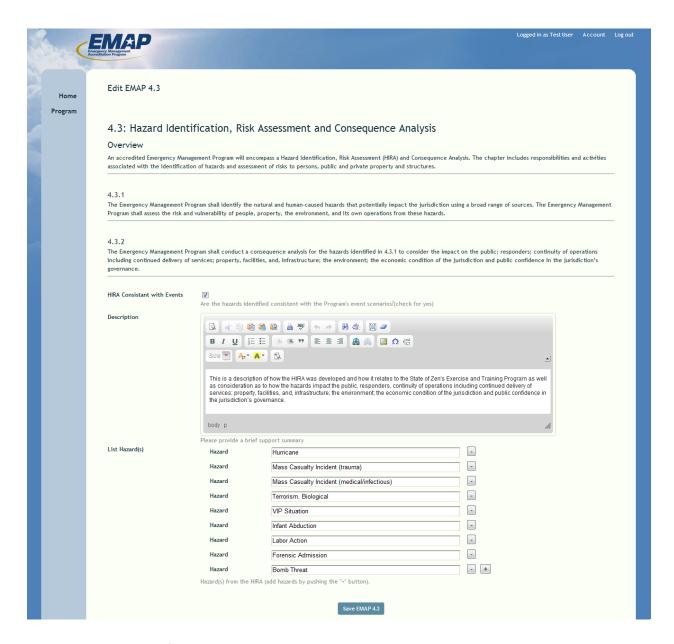


Figure 13 – EMAP 4.3 Information

After entering information about the Program's Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis you will be redirected back to the Program view page.

EMAP 4.14

This area, accessible via the "View EMAP 4.14" link, is for Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Actions and is divided into three separate sections; EMAP Standards 4.14.1, 4.14.2, and 4.14.3. The Standards states that the Program should have an exercise, evaluation and corrective action process.



The first section addresses EMAP Standard 4.14.1 and pertains to the jurisdictions exercise program. The Standard provides that a documented exercise program is established that regularly tests the skills, abilities, and experience of emergency personnel as well as the plans, policies, procedures, equipment, and facilities of the Emergency Management Program.

- 1. Documented Exercise Program: Indicate, by placing a check in the check box, if the Emergency Management Program has a documented Exercise Program. (If the answer is no, leave the check box empty)
- 2. Program Description: Please provide a description of the Exercise Program.
- 3. Documentation: Please provide a list of the Exercise Program's foundational documentation that was referenced and/or provided for review.
- 4. Personnel Test Frequency: Indicate how often the Emergency Management Program tests the skills, abilities and experience of the emergency personnel.
- 5. Program Test Frequency: Indicate how often the Emergency Management Program tests the Program's plans, policies, procedures, equipment and facilities.
- 6. HIRA Based: Please use the check box to indicate if the Exercise Program is tailored to the range of hazards that were previously provided for EMAP Standard 4.3 HIRA and Consequence Analysis.

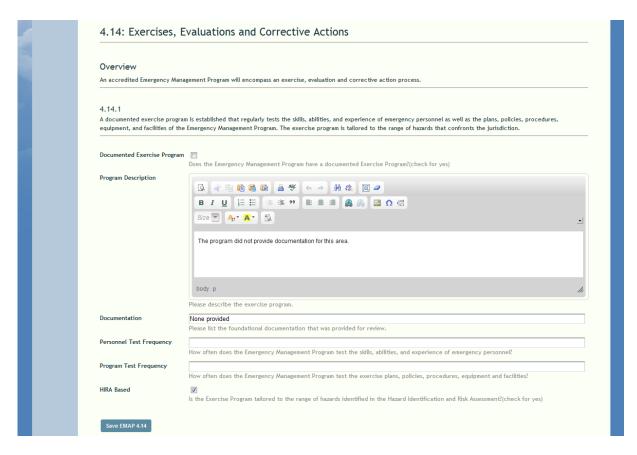


Figure 14 - EMAP 4.14.1

Use the save buttons located throughout the form to periodically save data. Periodically saving data ensures that you will not lose data in the event of internet connectivity issues or inadvertently leaving the form.

The second section of the page addresses EMAP Standard 4.14.2 and pertains to the jurisdiction's evaluation process. The Standard provides the Emergency Management Program shall evaluate plans, procedures, and capabilities through periodic reviews, testing, post-incident reports, lessons learned, performance evaluations, exercises and real-world events. The products of these evaluations are documented and disseminated with the Emergency Management Program including and to key stakeholders and selected partners

- 1. Exercise Evaluation Process: Indicate if the Emergency Mangement Program has some form of evaluation process in place.
- 2. Exercise Evaluation Process Description: Please describe the Program's Evaluation Process.
- Exercise Evaluation Process Documentation: Please provide a list of the Exercise Program
 Evaluation Process foundational documentation that was referenced and/or provided for
 review.

- 4. Plans and Procedures Reviewed: Please indicate what Plans, Procedures and Capabilities are currently being reviewed.
- 5. Plans and Procedures Review Frequency: Please indicate how often the Plans, Procedures and Capabilities are being reviewed.
- 6. Capabilities Reviewed: Please indicate what capabilities are currently being reviewed.
- 7. Stakeholder Partners: Please indicate what stakeholders and/or partners are involved in the Exercise Evaluation Process.

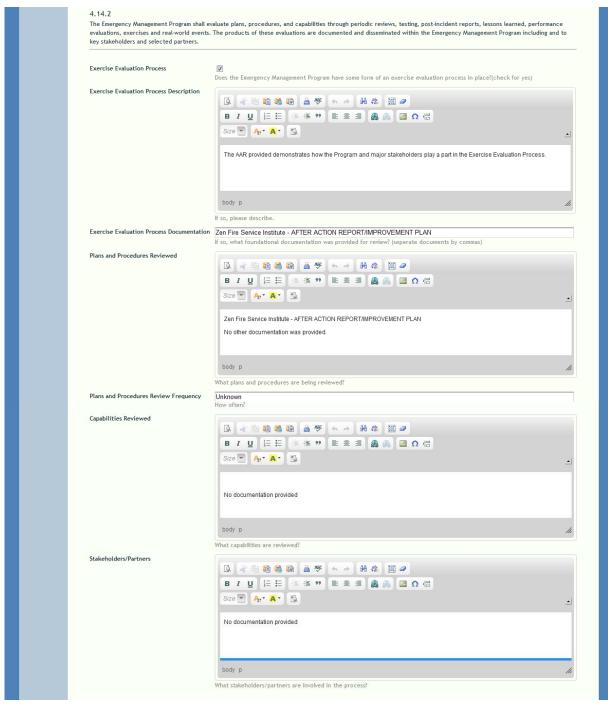


Figure 15 - EMAP 4.14.2

The final section of the page addresses EMAP Standard 4.14.3 and pertains to the jurisdiction's Corrective Action Process. The Standard states that a process for corrective actions shall be established and implemented to prioritize and track the resolution of deficiencies in real-world and exercise events. Corrective actions identified in the corrective action process shall be used to revise relevant plans.

- 1. Corrective Actions Process in Place: Please use the check box to indicate if the Emergency Management Program has a corrective action process in place.
- 2. Corrective Action Process Description: Please provide a description of the Program's Corrective Actions Process.
- 3. Corrective Action Documentation: Please provide a list of the Exercise Program Corrective Action Process' foundational documentation that was referenced and/or provided for review.

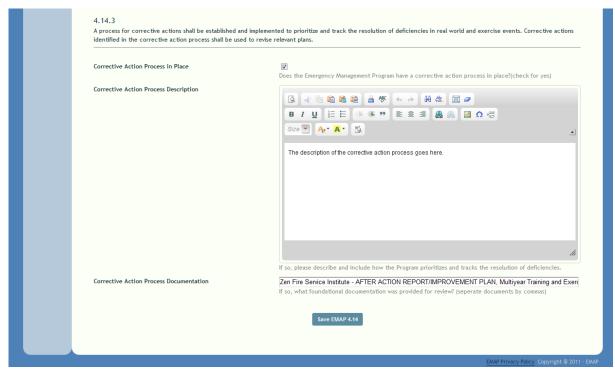


Figure 16 - EMAP 4.14.3

This form has multiple save buttons, each save button will save your data

Once all the information has been entered, click the Submit button at the bottom of the page. A new window will appear with a summary of the information you have entered and a link back to the program page.

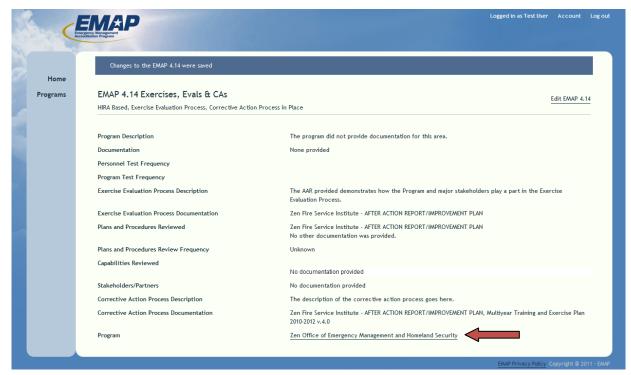


Figure 17 – EMAP 4.14 Summary Page (Link back to Program page indicated by the red arrow)

Adding Events

Events can be added in the same manner as other items by clicking on the "New Event" link. Once the information about the Event has been added you will be presented with a view where general information about the Event can be entered. Within this screen, a drop down menu is provided next to each item to address the following:

- 1. Event Name: Please provide the Event Name.
- 2. Event Start Date: Please indicate the date the Event began.
- 3. Event End Date: Please indicate the date the Event ended.
- 4. Event Duration: Please provide how many days and/or hours the Event took place. (This is for response time, do not include recovery time in this calculation)
- 5. Event Description: Please provide a brief description of the Event.
- 6. Event Sponsor/Host: Please provide what jurisdiction and/or agency sponsored the Event.
- 7. Event Scenario: Please choose a scenario from the drop down menu.
- 8. Event Scenario Summarization: Please provide a brief description of the Event Scenario.
- 9. Event Type: Please choose an Event type from the drop down menu.
- 10. Event State: Please choose a State from the drop down menu.
- 11. State-wide Event: Please use the check box to indicate if the Event was State-wide.

- 12. Multi-State Event: Please use the check box to indicate if the Event involved more than one state.
- 13. Role of the Emergency Management Program: Please provide a brief summary of the role the jurisdiction Emergency Management Program took in this Event.
- 14. Event Location(s)/Site(s): Please provide location(s)/site(s) where the Event took place. Please note that if you need to add multiple location(s)/site(s) then please use the '+' button.
- 15. Event Participant(s): Please provide Event participant(s). Please note that if you need to add multiple participants then please use the '+' button.
- 16. Event Funding Source(s): Please provide the Event Funding Sources. Please note that if you need to add multiple funding sources then please use the '+' button.
- 17. Event Open Corrective Action(s): Please provide the Open Corrective Actions associated with the Event. Please note that if you need to add multiple corrective actions then please use the '+' button.

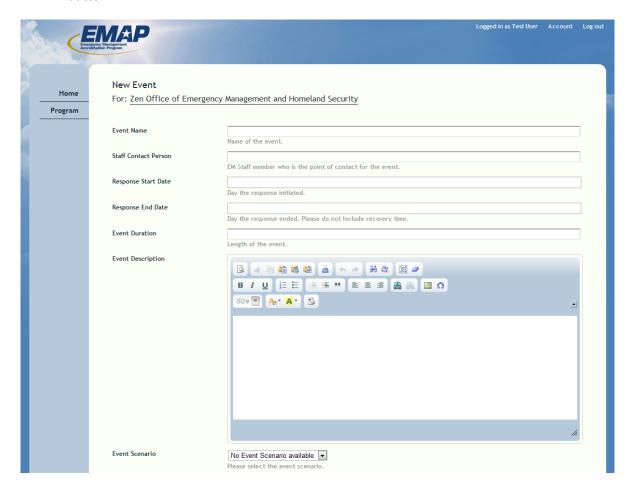


Figure 18 – Continued on next page

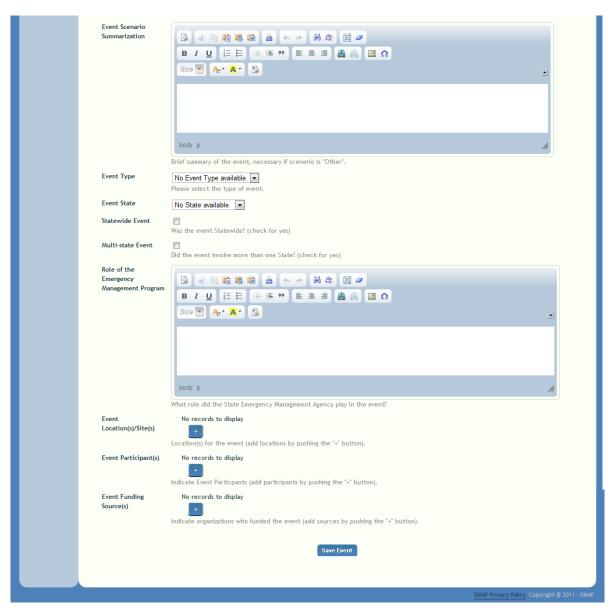


Figure 18 - New Event Page

Once the appropriate information has been entered in to the "New Event" form please click the "Save Event" button. You will be directed to the page in Figure 21, the Event view page. This page is setup similar to the Program view page and has areas for Lessons Learned, Uploads and Target Capabilities.

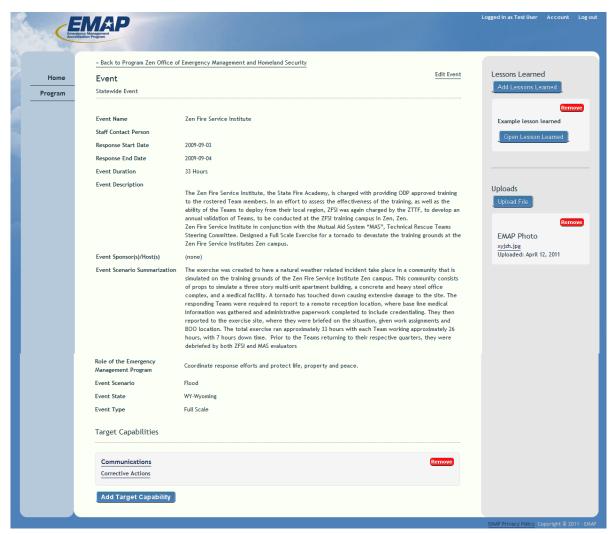


Figure 19 - Event View Page

Adding Target Capabilities

Click the "Add Target Capability" button to add a Target Capability for this specific Event.

- 1. Target Capabilities: Please provide the Target Capability.
- 2. Activity Levels: Please provide the Activity Levels associated with the above listed Target Capability. Please note that if you need to add multiple Activity Levels use the '+' button.
- 3. Strengths: Please provide Event Strengths. Please note that if you need to add multiple Strengths then please use the '+' button.
- 4. Improvement Plan Provided: Please indicate by using the check box if an Improvement Plan was developed and/or provided for this Event.
- 5. Improvement Plan Completed: Please indicate by using the check box if an Improvement Plan was completed for this Event.

- 6. Event Goals: Please provide the Event Goals. Please note that if you need to add multiple Goals then please use the '+' button.
- 7. Event Objectives: Please provide the Event Objectives. Please note that if you need to add multiple objectives then please use the '+' button.
- 8. Areas of Improvement: Please provide Areas of Improvement that were identified for this specific event. Please note that if you need to add multiple Areas of Improvement use the '+' button.

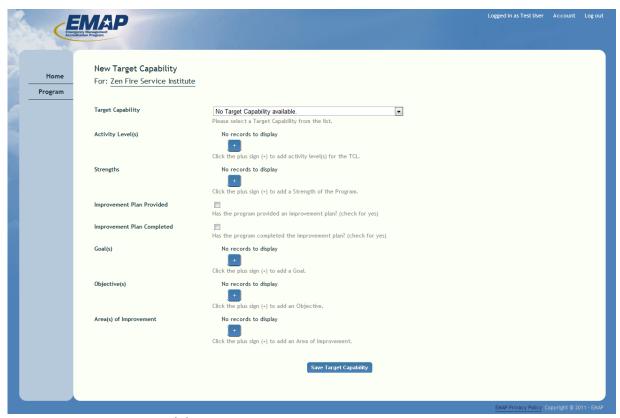


Figure 20 - New Target Capability Form

Clicking on the save link will take you back to the Target Capability view page where you can enter Corrective Actions.

Adding Corrective Actions

Once you have entered your Target Capability you will be directed to a summary of the information you entered regarding the Target Capability. On this screen by clicking on the "Add Corrective Action" button, you will have the ability to enter each corrective action associated with the Target Capability.

Corrective Actions:

- a. Corrective Action: Please provide Corrective Actions.
- b. Assigned To: Indicate who the Corrective Action was assigned to.

- c. Completed By: Indicate who completed the Corrective Action.
- d. Documentation: Indicate which document(s) support the above responses.

Lessons Learned

Adding Lessons Learned from the event can be done by clicking the "New Lesson Learned" link.

- 1. Title: Please provide a short title for the Lesson Learned.
- 2. Description: Please provide a brief summary of the Lesson Learned.

At the bottom of the page please click "Save Lesson Learned" and you will be returned to the Event page where you can use the same process to add multiple Lessons Learned.

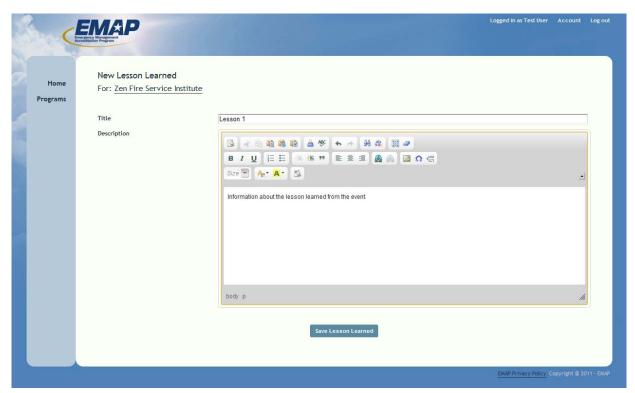


Figure 21 – Lesson Learned Form

Uploading Documents

Uploading documents can be done in either the Program View page or in the Event view page. To add a document which applies to the Program as a whole, please upload it on that page by clicking on the "Upload File" button If the document is specific to an Event, please upload it to the appropriate Event by following the "Upload File" button located on the Event view page.

- 1. Enter a name for the file being uploaded. (Please choose a short descriptive name for the file)
- 2. Click "Choose File" to open a file browser window where a file to upload can be selected.

Click the "Save Upload" button to save the file to the server.

Below the upload form you will see a list of previously uploaded files

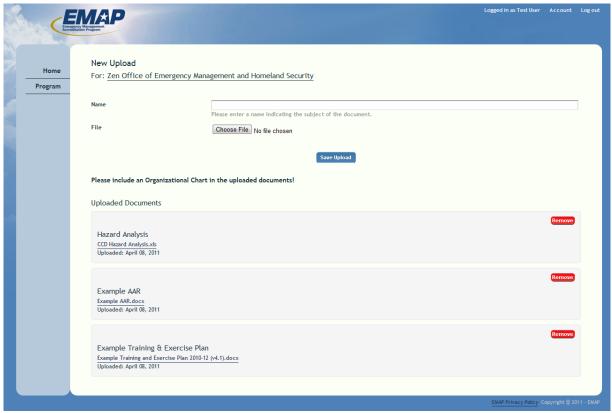


Figure 22 – Upload Form

Appendix A - Working with Form Elements

Entering data

Areas where data is to be entered are accessed via a button. Buttons are also used to save data on forms.

Viewing data that has been previously entered can be accessed via standard links.

Multiple Discrete Items

In order to add multiple items corresponding to an area on a form, click on the plus '+' sign to add each discrete entry corresponding to the field label. Should you need to remove an entry, click the minus sign next to it and it will be removed (be careful as this will not ask for a confirmation). You will see these plus and minus sign '+/-' buttons throughout the application, they indicate an area where multiple, discrete items need to, or can, be entered; i.e. priorities or exercises of an exercise plan.

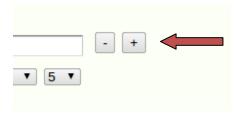


Figure 25 – Adding Multiple Items

The areas where more than one sentence will be entered allows for rich text and formatting similar to a Microsoft Word Document. The figure below is an example of one of these areas.

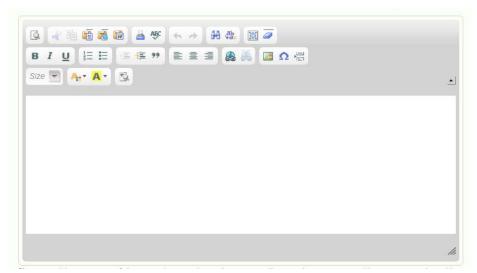


Figure 26 – Rich Text Input Box

In the areas where a more detailed response is required, text boxes can be found which allow you to create lists, both numbered and ordered, quotes, and most other options available from a standard word processor. It is important to note that cut, copy & paste features are not the same as most windows applications. When coping data from a word document use either keyboard shortcuts or the

"Paste from Word" button , located on the top row of the tool bar (marked by the red arrow above). There are many other tools available and if you are unsure about what each button will do, hold the mouse pointer over the button for a moment and a text box will appear with a description of the button's function.

Note: Some browsers and operating systems will prevent the "Paste from Word" button from working properly and will cause an error, please use the keyboard shortcuts to overcome this issue.

Keyboard shortcuts:

COPY ctrl-c

PASTE ctrl-v

CUT ctrl-x

Appendix B - Trouble Shooting Error Messages

If for any reason the information you put in the application is not valid or cannot be left blank, the application will inform you of the error and give a reason as to why the error exists.



Figure 27- Error Message

Most of the error messages relate to a field that cannot be left blank and are required for the data to save properly.

The other types of error messages include fields that need to be unique or are in the incorrect format. An example of a field that would need to be unique would be the name of a Program or the name of an Event.

If the error message displayed doesn't give enough information about the cause, please contact EMAP staff for more help