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**Introduction**

Emergency preparedness is a continuous process in which action, funding, partnerships and political commitment at all levels must be sustained.

It relies on all stakeholders working together effectively to plan, invest in and implement priority actions.

**Emergency preparedness is defined as:**

the knowledge and capacities and organizational systems developed by governments, response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent, emerging, or current emergencies.

**1. Principles of emergency preparedness**

The emergency preparedness is built upon the following set of principles:

**Safeguarding, maintaining and restoring the health and wellbeing of communities**. These are the highest priorities for emergency preparedness. Improving the state of individual, community, and national health security in every country, and particularly in higher-risk, low-capacity countries, contributes to global health security and helps raise the level of health security for all.

**Communities are critical to effective emergency management**. Community members are the first responders and the first victims of any emergency and, as such, essential members of the preparedness process. They should be represented in all activities around developing and implementing plans for emergency preparedness.

**Preparedness requires sustained political commitment, partnerships, and funding.** The management of emergencies by authorities, including governments, often has significant political dimensions. Political leadership and attention, combined with strong community and national ownership, should be accorded to preparedness in a sustained manner, just like funding. Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility that requires coordination between communities and national and international actors. It also necessitates effective partnerships between public and private actors, civil society, donors, technical agencies and operational entities.

**Achieving emergency preparedness has a cost, but this is an investment in health, safety, security and development**. Sustained funding should be aligned with costed, prioritized preparedness measures based on risk and capacity assessments.

Health systems and emergency preparedness reinforce one another, and along with other systems contribute to the resilience of communities and countries. A focus on systems is extremely important to emergency preparedness, because it is not only specific activities and actors that are needed to build stronger systems, but also the right relationships between them. Strong human and animal health and other societal systems are the foundations of emergency preparedness. Conversely, emergency preparedness builds the resilience of these systems.

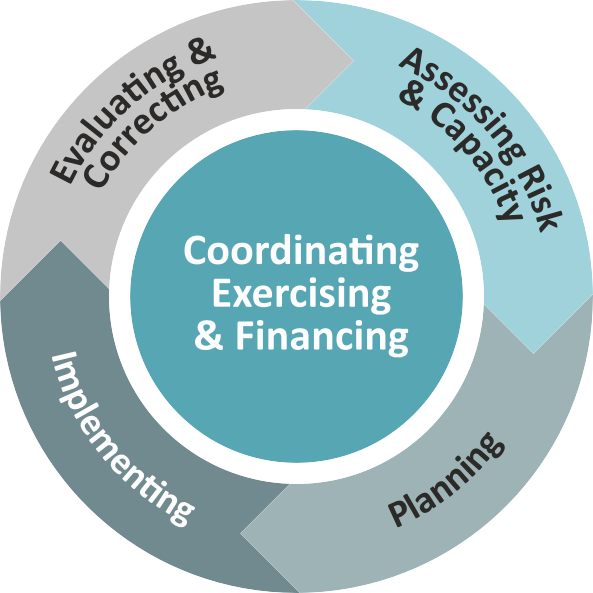
**Emergency preparedness should be addressed with an all-hazards approach.** Many elements of emergency preparedness are common to all hazards, and plans for emergency preparedness should be designed to incorporate them. There is also a need for hazard-specific emergency prepared- ness measures based on risk assessments, and these should build on and supplement all hazard plans as appropriate.

A risk management approach underpins the assessment, planning and implementation of emergency management actions including prevention and mitigation of risks, prepared- ness activities, coordinated response, and recovery and reconstruction. Emergency risk management should continue to emphasize prevention measures to avoid hazards and reduce vulnerability.

**A whole of society approach is critical for emergency preparedness.** Addressing the health dimensions of emergency preparedness requires the health system to interact with other government sectors at all levels of the national system; the commercial sector; and civil society, including non-governmental and community organizations

The process for developing and implementing emergency preparedness follows an iterative cycle. Key actions are as follows:

**2. The Diagram below shows the description of the Emergency Preparedness Process**



**Coordinating:** development and implementation of emergency preparedness requires robust coordination mechanisms that include multisectoral and partner participation. Coordination among all partners is essential for every aspect of the process, and enables community, local, national, cross-border and international actors to work toward common objectives under a joint planning process (see below).

**Exercising:** Exercises provide evidence based assessments for the monitoring and strengthening of emergency preparedness. As training tools, exercises are useful to help build individual competencies, allowing participants to learn and practice their roles in emergencies. As quality assurance tools, exercises can test and evaluate emergency policies, plans and procedures at organization or system-wide levels. After exercises have been conducted, action should be taken to institute the recommendations for strengthening emergency prepared.

**Financing:** All steps of emergency preparedness planning should take account of available financial and in-kind resources from local, national or international sources. National action plans should be costed to guide financial investment for implementation. Domestic and international investments should be aligned with the priorities articulated in the national action plan. Where multiple action plans exist, they should be brought together before costing and financing occurs to ensure that the countries’ priorities are reflected and funded. Countries must ensure that health financing structures for strengthening emergency preparedness are included in a budget for health security or emergency risk management, which in turn should not only be part of the health budget, but also part of multisectoral budgets for emergency preparedness. Countries must include contingency funding mechanisms for rapid access during emergencies. In higher risk low-capacity countries, these processes will require considerable international financial support.

**Assessing risk and capacity:** The development of an emergency preparedness programme and associated plans should be based on all hazards assessments of risk, and of the available capacity to manage the priority risks. A standardized approach to all types of assessment is required so that they may be applied in a comparable, reproducible and defensible manner to inform emergency preparedness plans. A range of generic, multi-hazard or risk-specific frame- works and tools enables countries to assess emergency preparedness capacities, and provides the information needed to institute targeted measures to strengthen prepared- ness and response systems in a proactive, evidence-based way.

**Planning:** Countries and communities will use different frameworks and tools to develop preparedness and emergency response plans. The resulting plans may vary from one context to another because of the different risks and capacities to be found in communities and countries, and because different tools have been used. It is crucial that emergency preparedness plans between and within sectors and levels are aligned and do not generate unnecessary fragmentation

or duplication. The planning process should involve broad stakeholder consultation and must be aimed at developing consensus and agreement not only on content, but also with regard to roles in implementation and financing.

Different plans may exist in a country for health emergency preparedness, notably:

(i) a national action plan to which stakeholders commit to improving a country’s level of preparedness over a given period of time.

(ii) an all-hazard national health emergency response plan that sets out the com- mon processes and responsibilities for all health sector, all hazard responses

(iii) contingency plans developed for priority hazards that are linked to the national action plan and all-hazard plan.

For the development of the national action plan, a process for prioritization and timeframes for implementation that taken to account available resources must be in place. All efforts should be made to secure the resources needed to operationalize the highest-priority response capacities.

**Implementing:** Successfully implementing a national action plan requires a number of things. A coordination mechanism, involving stakeholders with responsibilities identified in the national action plan, should oversee and monitor progress. The participation of stakeholders in planning is essential to ensure commitment to, and ownership of, emergency preparedness measures. The priorities for strengthening emergency preparedness should be described clearly in the action plan; responsibilities and accountabilities should be clearly identified; and sufficient resources should be available to put actions into practice over the duration of the plan. Another important factor is the need to limit the time lag between development and implementation of the plan, to maintain momentum and commitment to emergency preparedness.

**Evaluating and taking corrective action:** Emergency preparedness is a dynamic process. The implementation of emergency preparedness plans should be monitored and evaluated in line with pre-defined indicators and standardized tools and processes, and should be reported accordingly. Reviews should be conducted at pre-agreed times by the coordinating body, or by an independent body convened for the purpose. Where there are changes in risk priorities or in the availability of capacities and resources, or where post-emergency or post-exercise reviews have identified areas for improvement, corrective action should be applied to the assessment, planning and prioritization of emergency preparedness activities.

**3. The following are the three potential impacts of emergencies on communities and the immediate response/intervention for each**

**Danger to Life/Loss of Life**

Many emergencies cause an immediate danger to the life of people involved. This can range from emergencies affecting a single person, such as the entire range of [medical emergencies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_emergency) including [heart attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myocardial_infarction), [strokes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stroke), [cardiac arrest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardiac_arrest) and [trauma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_trauma), to incidents that affect large numbers of people such as [natural disasters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_disaster) including [tornadoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado), [hurricanes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane), [floods](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flood), [earthquakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake), [mudslides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudslide) and outbreaks of diseases such as [cholera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholera), [Ebola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebola_virus_disease), and [malaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaria).

Most agencies consider these the highest priority emergency, which follows the general school of thought that nothing is more important than human life.

**SOCIAL IMPACT**

**Psychosocial impact** during an emergency, all the women cited the psychosocial or emotional impact as a major problem. There will be widespread concern among women leaders about the population’s mental health, and about the lack of resources for dealing with the situation. Most of them also will have feeling of insecurity in the streets, crime, drugs, the high number of teenage mothers and pregnant adolescents, and the sense of pervasive violence. These social problems are not directly attributable to the emergency, but worsened afterwards, and may be associated with the emotional and economic impact of the emergency or disaster. In most of the countries, in particular, research shows a significant link

**Dangers to Health**

Some emergencies are not necessarily immediately threatening to life, but might have serious implications for the continued health and well-being of a person or persons (though a health emergency can subsequently escalate to life threatening).

The causes of a health emergency are often very similar to the causes of an emergency threatening to life, which includes medical emergencies and natural disasters, although the *range* of incidents that can be categorized here is far greater than those that cause a danger to life (such as broken limbs, which do not usually cause death, but immediate intervention is required if the person is to recover properly). Many life emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, are also health emergencies.

**DANGERS TO THE ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Some emergencies do not immediately endanger life, health or property, but do affect the natural environment and creatures living within it. Not all agencies consider this a genuine emergency, but it can have far-reaching effects on animals and the long-term condition of the land. Examples would include [forest fires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forest_fire) and marine [oil spills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_spill).

**ECONOMICAL IMPACT**

1. **Loss of properties**

This is always one of the worst problem in the community when an emergency or disaster occurs in the community that causes many distractions, damage etc in the country.

1. **Housing**

There will be so many number of houses will destroy or damage by flooding which is one of the major cause of emergency in the community and this leave people in the community to be homeless which is not good for their health condition enlarge.

1. **Loss of generating Income**

When an emergency occur in the community there will be a lot of damages and distraction which make many of the people in the community to loss most of the farms, properties that normally generate income for them to sustain or continue with their life

**The responses or intervention needed to prevent such problems from causing more or much damage and distraction to the community are as follows**

1. [**Prevention and Mitigation**](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/dsstr-prvntn-mtgtn/index-en.aspx)

Preventing or reducing the impacts of disasters on our communities is a key focus for emergency management efforts today. Prevention and mitigation also help reduce the financial costs of disaster response and recovery. Public Safety is working with provincial and territorial governments and stakeholders to promote disaster prevention and mitigation using a risk-based and all-hazards approach. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers must endorse a [National Disaster Mitigation Strategy](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/mtgtn-strtgy/index-en.aspx).

1. [**Emergency Preparedness**](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/mrgnc-prprdnss/index-en.aspx)

Public Safety works in collaboration with NGO, Ministry of Health, other federal departments and provincial and territorial governments to strengthen national emergency preparedness, through planning, support to training, the exercising and testing of emergency management arrangements and plans, and sharing lessons learned from events and exercises. These efforts, taken prior to an emergency, help support event response, contribute to reductions in the impacts of events and help identify opportunities for future prevention and mitigation efforts.

1. [**Responding to Emergency Events**](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/rspndng-mrgnc-vnts/index-en.aspx)

Emergencies are managed first at the local level – for example, by first responders such as medical professionals and hospitals, fire departments, the police and municipalities. Local authorities who need assistance request it from provincial or territorial governments. If an emergency escalates beyond their capabilities, the province or territory may seek assistance from the federal government.

**4. Communication is more important in anticipating disasters or emergency in the community and here are some of the means/ communication process that has to be put in place to anticipate this problem/disaster.**

**1. Social Media**

a.  [Facebook Safety Check](https://www.facebook.com/about/safetycheck/)

This feature allows users who are located within a certain distance of a natural disaster’s occurrence, to log in, tell friends if they are safe, and check to see if their loved ones have verified their safety as well.

b. Google Crisis Response

This is resource page provides tools, information and interactive platforms for both emergency responders and those in need of assistance. It includes access to Google [Public Alerts](https://www.google.org/publicalerts) (emergency alerts), [Person Finder](https://www.google.org/personfinder/global/home.html), [Crisis Map](https://www.google.org/crisismap/weather_and_events), [Docs](https://www.google.com/docs/about/) & [Spreadsheets](https://www.google.com/sheets/about/), [Fusion Tables](https://sites.google.com/site/fusiontablestalks/stories), [Google Earth](https://www.google.com/earth/) and [Google Sites](https://sites.google.com/). Each has their own special application and usage to assist for better communication methods in time of need.

**2. Mobile Applications (Apps)**

Cell phone apps are not only fun for playing games and keeping the kids occupied on a long car ride, they can also help in a disaster setting.

a. [Life360](https://www.life360.com/)

Life360 is a free app that allows access to a specific user’s location and contains a messaging service feature. Automatic alerts can notify the user when a loved one arrives or checks-in at specified destinations as well.

b. [FEMA app](https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app)

This application gives users access to preparedness tips such as survival advice, emergency checklists, and meeting locations that can be saved to a mobile device. It gives the user access to weather alerts from the National Weather Service tailored to a specific area. Users can retrieve information on Disaster Recovery Centers, find locations of the nearest shelters and apply for assistance.

**3. Cell phone**

Mobile networks quickly become overloaded due to the massive increase of users and unexpected surge that follows a disaster. Be sure not to discount text messaging and e-mails as a communications method as they work on a platform that is parallel to cell phones. Therefore, even if you cannot reach a person by calling them and the line is busy, a text or e-mail message may still be able to reach the specified destination.

**4. Landline telephone**

Perhaps not the most popular option anymore, but having a landline telephone can be a lifesaver when access to a cellphone or other electronic device is limited or non-existent. Depending on the type of technology supplied by your provider, it is possible that a landline telephone will work, even when internet access is down. Landline plans vary, but are surprisingly on the cheaper side and are well worth the investment if for nothing else, peace of mind.

**OK, all of these are great if power, internet, and access to these electronic devices is still available, but what will happen when they are not? These next set of items can be used without power, cords, electricity, Wi-Fi access, etc.**

**5. Satellite phone (Sat phones)**

Satellite phones are on the pricier side of the emergency devices spectrum, but are beneficial especially in remote territories where internet access is scarce at best. Some satellite phones have coverage in all parts of the world due to Sat phone’s reliance on orbiting satellites for their functioning versus standard cell phone towers.

**6. Two-Way radio**

A two-way radio (also known as walkie-talkies) is a pair of handheld devices that can connect with each other provided both are on the same frequency, within a certain distance. One user can talk while the other listens and vice-versa. These are beneficial to have among emergency responders in the field as a quick way to communicate with each other without clogging up cell phone lines.

**7. Citizens Band Radio (CB Radio)**

A CB radio is capable of short-distance communications on various frequencies. It is similar although more complex than a regular two-way radio as it contains more functionality. Because it is open for use for both business and personal use, it is a good source of general information.

**8. Amateur Radio (HAM Radio)**

This product is similar to a CB radio besides that it requires the user to be a licensed American Amateur Radio operator; thus giving it a bit more authenticity to the information that is being regulated across the air waves.

**9. Police Scanner**

This device allows the user to hear all emergency communication between officials in the police, rescue, fire, respondent, military, and aircraft industries. Although the user cannot broadcast on it, it does allow access to important information during an emergency.

**10. Word-of-Mouth**

When all else fails, power is out, internet access is scarce, and devices are ruined or have not been purchased prior, it comes down to survival instincts. During a disaster setting, it is important to [have a plan in place beforehand](https://www.adjustersinternational.com/ring-in-new-year-with-12-step-disaster-plan/) and practice that plan prior to a disaster occurring. If you do not have a plan in place, try your best to not become isolated and stay together in a group to avoid being misplaced or lost.

Emergencies are unpredictable and can have devastating consequences, both during the emergency and long afterwards. Emergencies don't just affect individuals. They affect whole communities, as well as the surrounding environment and infrastructure. If we all do our bit and prepare for an emergency, we can minimize its impact.

**The of people/staffs that are involve in anticipating Disaster and emergency in the community**

**Introduction**

Community service organizations share expertise, education, information, resources and support with those who need help most. Community service workers know their clients' capabilities, vulnerabilities, and the challenges they face. Workers can use their strong relationships with their clients to help them build the skills and knowledge to prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency.

Most developed countries have a number of [emergency services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_service) operating within them, whose purpose is to provide assistance in dealing with any emergency. They are often government operated, paid for from [tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax) revenue as a public service, but in some cases, they may be private companies, responding to emergencies in return for payment, or they may be voluntary organizations, providing the assistance from funds raised from [donations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donation).

Most developed countries operate three core emergency services:

* [**Police**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police) – handle mainly [crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime)-related emergencies.
* Youths ­– handling and supporting the community and police in fighting emergencies related issues
* [**Fire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_department) – handle [fire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire)-related emergencies and usually possess secondary rescue duties.
* [**Medical**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_Medical_Service) – handle [medical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine)-related emergencies.

There may also be a number of specialized emergency services, which may be a part of one of the core agencies, or may be separate entities who assist the main agencies. This can include services, such as [bomb disposal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomb_disposal), [search and rescue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Search_and_rescue), and [hazardous material](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dangerous_goods) operations.

The Military and the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_Radio_Emergency_Service) (ARES) or [Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Amateur_Civil_Emergency_Service) (RACES) help in large emergencies such as a disaster or major civil unrest.

**Summoning emergency services**

Most countries have an [emergency telephone number](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_telephone_number), also known as the universal emergency number, which can be used to summon the emergency services to any incident. This number varies from country to country (and in some cases by region within a country), but in most cases, they are in a short number format, such as [911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-1-1) (United States and many parts of Canada), [999](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/999_(emergency_telephone_number)) (United Kingdom), [112](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1-1-2)(Europe) and [000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/000) (Australia).

The majority of mobile phones also dial the emergency services, even if the phone keyboard is locked, or if the phone has an expired or missing [SIM card](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subscriber_Identity_Module), although the provision of this service varies by country and network.

**Civil emergency services**

In addition to those services provided specifically for emergencies, there may be a number of agencies who provide an emergency service as an incidental part of their normal 'day job' provision. This can include [public utility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_utility) workers, such as in provision of [electricity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electricity) or [gas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas), who may be required to respond quickly, as both utilities have a large potential to cause danger to life, health and property if there is an infrastructure failure.

**Domestic emergency services**

Generally perceived as pay per use emergency services, domestic emergency services are small, medium or large businesses who tend to emergencies within the boundaries of licensing or capabilities. These tend to consist of emergencies where health or property is perceived to be at risk but may not qualify for official emergency response. Domestic emergency services are in principal similar to civil emergency services where public or private utility workers will perform corrective repairs to essential services and avail their service at all times; however, these are at a cost for the service. An example would be an emergency plumber.

**5. Hazard**

Is any source of potential damage, harm or adverse health effect on something or someone? Or hazard is an agent which has the potential to cause harm to a vulnerable target. Basically, a hazard is something that can cause harm or adverse effects such as to individuals as health effects, to the environment or to organizations as property or equipment damage. Some examples are: a lit cigarette, a wet floor, direct exposure to the sun, or exposure to toxic chemicals.

**The difference between Hazard Exposure and Hazard Vulnerability are determine in terms of their definition, disaster risk and they are as follows**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Hazard Exposure** | **Hazard Vulnerability** |
| **Definition** | Refers to the a state of being in which a person or a group of people remain in an imminent risk of danger. | Refers to the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. |
| **Disaster Risk** | People, Buildings and Infrastructure and Business | Physical, Social, Engineering, Economic and Environment |

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**6. The Four Phases of Emergency Management**

In emergency management, there are four phases that are needed to handle any type of emergency. These phases are also considered the disaster circle. The four phases of comprehensive emergency management include: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and recovery. Without this circle, it is difficult to manage an incident or emergency.

**Mitigation**

refers to activities that are designed to: Reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property, or Lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident.

**Preparedness**

Preparedness is defined as the range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents. Preparedness is a continuous process involving efforts at all levels of government and between government and private sector and nongovernmental organizations to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources.

**Response**

Response begins when an emergency event is imminent or immediately after an event occurs. Response encompasses the activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response also includes the execution of EOPs and of incident mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and unfavorable outcomes.

**Recovery**

The goal of recovery is to return the community’s systems and activities to normal. Recovery begins right after the emergency. Some recovery activities may be concurrent with response efforts.

**Conclusion**

In this assignment, you learned the definition of emergency management; the four phases of emergency management; the responsibilities of individuals and local, State, and Federal governments in regard to emergency management; and looked at some examples of emergency management in action.

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