


All-Hazards Preparedness: Are we ready?

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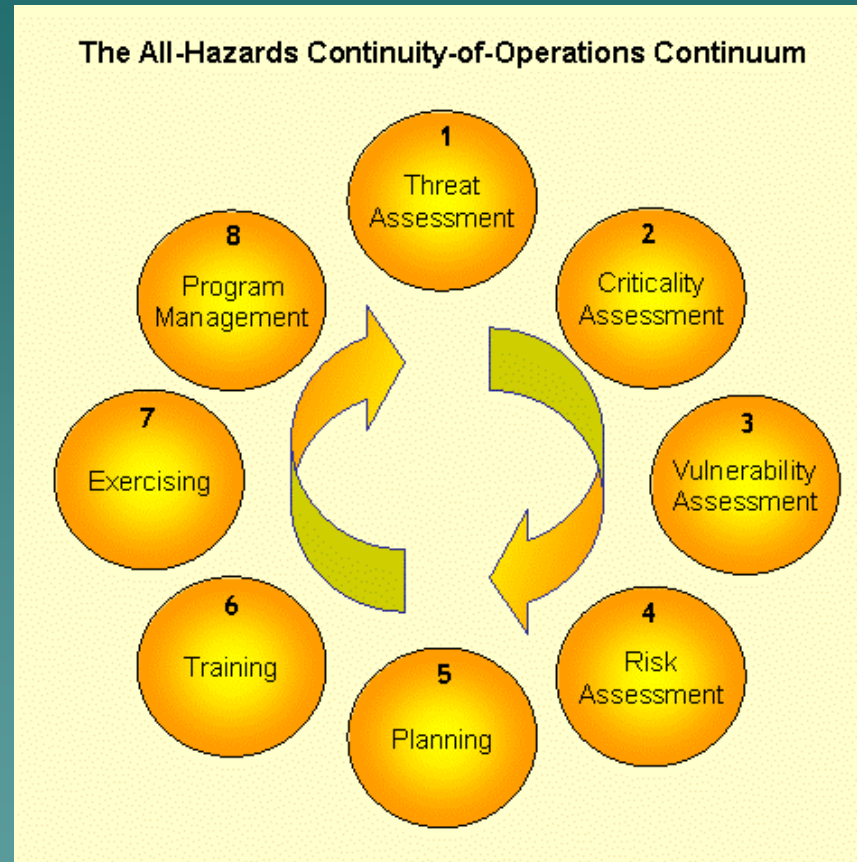
Are we ready?

- ◆ Natural Disasters
 - ◆ Bioterrorism
 - ◆ Pandemics
 - ◆ Chemical agents
 - ◆ Nuclear/Radiation emergencies
 - ◆ Mass casualty incidents
 - ◆ Accidents
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Barriers to preparedness

- ◆ Planning without a complete and continuous assessment of threats, criticality, and vulnerabilities.
- ◆ Exercises without a solid plan and key player involvement.
- ◆ Knowledge deficit regarding the National Response Plan (FEMA Emergency Management Institute—Free online learning at <http://emilms.fema.gov/>).

All-Hazards Continuity of Operations Continuum



Article: Enhancing Disaster Management Through an All-Hazards Continuity-of-Operations Continuum
(Rob Propst, March 2006), Available at:

http://www.homelandsecurity.org/newjournal/articles/propst_continuum.htm

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1. Threat Assessment

- ◆ What threatens us?
 - Weather
 - Geophysical
 - Accident
 - Criminal
 - Terrorism
 - Disease

2. Criticality Assessment

- ◆ What elements of the enterprise are central to continuity?
 - Workforce
 - Product/Output
 - Infrastructure (raw materials, power, water, gas, any compromised resource)

3. Vulnerability Assessment

- ◆ Develop an order to asset protection.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. Risk Assessment

- ◆ Completed by CEO or directors
- ◆ Complex balancing act
- ◆ Resources must be balanced in order to enhance the organization's preparedness profile.

5. Planning

- ◆ Should be simple (one task, one person, active voice).
- ◆ Logically order the tasks.
 - Are they in active voice? (There should be no question as to what needs to be done.)
 - Are they clear and comprehensive?


6. Training

- ◆ Assess learning needs based upon the plan.
 - Avoid unfocused training.
 - Jumping to training without steps 1 through 5 wastes precious resources of time, people, and money.

7. Exercising

- ◆ First, management tabletop; Second, tabletop plus enterprise field exercises; Third, enterprise-inclusive with all corporate players.
- ◆ Focus on single hazards. Do one set of tasks well...eliminate overwhelming situations that develop bad habits.

8. Program Management

- ◆ Maintain response team engagement and assuredness.
 - ◆ Continuing application.
 - ◆ Structured, flexible approach to planning.
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Further Resources

- ◆ Public Health Emergency Exercise Toolkit (June 2006) Columbia University (available online at www.cdc.gov).
- ◆ Multipatient Disaster Scenario Design Using Mixed Modality Medical Simulation for the Evaluation of Civilian Prehospital Medical Response: A "Dirty Bomb" Case Study. (2006). *Simulation in Healthcare*, 1 (2), 72-78.
- ◆ www.homelandsecurity.org
- ◆ www.onlineheroes.org
- ◆ <http://emilms.fema.gov/>