Community College
Citizen Preparedness Program
Procedure Participant Guide

Module 1: Threat Awareness and Assessment
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Overview

A disaster resistant college or university understands the threat posed by natural hazards to its campus and its mission. It actively implements policies, programs, and practices to address its risk. It integrates loss reduction into its teaching, research and public service activities. A well prepared college or university has well prepared students.

This module addresses the knowledge, skills, and abilities students need to survive natural, technological, and man-made disasters. Whatever the scale of the disaster, the first response will be carried out by members of the local community. Therefore, students and citizens need to be able to:

• Understand preparedness as it pertains to their unique situation and to their responsibility as a citizen.
• Understand specific threats and how to respond.

1 Building a Disaster-Resistant University, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Draft ,2000
Administration Page

Duration
30 minutes

Scope Statement
This module provides students and citizens with information on how to protect themselves, their families and property against all types of threats. The focus of the module is on how to recognize and assess potential man-made, technological, and natural threats.

Terminal Learning Objective (TLO)
Students and citizens will be able to identify and articulate the module purpose, goals, and objectives. They will recognize how this module helps them become responsible for their preparedness against all threats.

Enabling Learning Objectives (ELO)
Participants will be able to:
- Explain why preparedness is everyone’s responsibility.
- Identify potential natural, technological, and man-made threats.
- Assess potential local threats.

Resources
Procedure Participant Guide
PowerPoint presentation
Are You Ready? FEMA
Food and Water in an Emergency, FEMA
Preparing for Disaster, FEMA
Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs, FEMA
Be Red Cross Ready: Get a Kit, American Red Cross
Citizens Preparedness Guide

Instructor-to-Participant Ratio
The ratio varies depending upon the institution.

Reference List
References are found in the reference section of the Participant Guide.

Practical Exercise Statement
Participants will complete the activity on Hazard Determination.

Assessment Strategy
Observation of classroom involvement by participant
Observation of participant interaction with other participants
Introduction

At any time, cities and campuses across this country may be touched either directly or indirectly by a crisis of some kind. Natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes can strike a community with little or no warning. An influenza pandemic, or other infectious disease, can spread from person to person causing serious illness across the country, or around the globe, in very short time. Campus shootings, threatened or actual, are extremely rare but are horrific and chilling when they occur. The harrowing events of September 11 and subsequent anthrax scares have ushered in a new age of terrorism. Communities across the country are struggling to understand and avert acts of terror.²

Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do in the event of a fire and where to seek shelter during a tornado. They should be ready to evacuate their homes, schools and businesses, take refuge in public shelters, and know how to care for their basic medical needs. Taking action now can save lives, prevent injury, and minimize property damage in the moments of a crisis.

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property. If a disaster occurs in your community, local government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. Local first responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere.

You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area including hurricanes, earthquakes, ice and snow storms, flooding, or terrorism. You should also be ready to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days and, depending upon the type of disaster, may be several additional days. This means providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water, and sanitation.

Are You Ready?³

Every citizen in this country is part of a national emergency management system that is all about protection-protecting people and property from all types of hazards.

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³ Are You Ready? In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness, FEMA, August 2004
Think of the national emergency management system as a pyramid with citizens forming the base of the structure. At this level, citizens have a responsibility to protect themselves and their families by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event.

Before an Event:
- Know the risks and danger signs.
- Purchase insurance, including flood insurance, which is not part of your homeowner/renter insurance policy.
- Develop plans for what to do.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit.
- Volunteer to help others.

During an Event:
- Put your plan into action.
- Help others.
- Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

After an Event:
- Be alert for dangerous or hazardous conditions.
- Repair damaged property.
- Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.

It is sometimes necessary to turn to others within the local community for help. These individuals are engaged in preventing emergencies from happening and in being prepared to respond if something does occur. Most emergencies are handled at the local level, which puts a tremendous responsibility on the community for taking care of its citizens. Responsibilities faced by local officials include:
- Identifying hazards and assessing potential risk to the community.
- Enforcing building codes, zoning ordinances, and land-use management programs.
- Coordinating emergency plans to ensure a quick and effective response.
- Fighting fires and responding to hazardous materials incidents.
- Establishing warning systems.
- Stocking emergency supplies and equipment.
- Assessing damage and identifying needs.
- Evacuating the community to safer locations.
- Taking care of the injured.
- Sheltering those who cannot remain in their homes.
- Aiding recovery efforts.
Identify the Hazards

Natural
It is important to identify the natural hazards that could impact the campus and community in order to be prepared. These natural events include:

- Avalanche
- Coastal erosion
- Earthquake
- Fire (urban-wildland interface, conflagration, and facility fires)
- Flood
- Severe weather (ice storms, hail, high winds, drought, lightning)
- Hurricane (wind and storm surge)
- Tornado
- Landslides & Mudflows
- Volcano (ash fall, blast, debris flows)
- Tsunami and Seiche

Technological
Technological hazards, such as hazardous materials incidents, household chemical emergencies, and nuclear power plant emergencies may be triggered by natural hazards. Additional information can be obtained from the local or county office of emergency management agency, state office of emergency services or FEMA regional office.

Manmade/Terrorism
The threat of terrorism affects all communities, both nationally and internationally. History has shown that no community is immune. Terrorism transcends all geographic and demographic boundaries. All jurisdictions, suburban, urban, and rural are at risk. Terrorists, both international and domestic, have demonstrated the knowledge and the capability to strike anywhere in the world. A terrorism event could include:

- Shootings
- Hazardous materials releases
- Transportation incidents
- Civil disobedience
- Chemical threats
- Biological threats
- Radiological events
- Nuclear blasts
• Explosions

Summary

Every citizen in this country is part of a national emergency management system that is all about protection—protecting people and property from all types of hazards. Think of the national emergency management system as a pyramid with citizens forming the base of the structure. At this level, citizens have a responsibility to protect themselves and their families by knowing what to do before an event. 4: Remember that recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process.

Citizen Responsibility Before an Event:

• Know the risks and danger signs.
• Purchase insurance, including flood insurance, which is not part of your homeowner’s policy.
• Develop plans for what to do.
• Assemble a disaster supplies kit.
• Volunteer to help others.

Citizen Responsibility During an Event:

• Put your plan into action.
• Help others.
• Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

Citizen Responsibility After an Event:

• Repair damaged property.
• Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.
• Be alert.

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4 Are You Ready? In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness, FEMA, August 2004