

Loss Prevention News

Provided by the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool

Security and Emergency Planning Resources

Local governments are called upon to prepare for threats to the security and safety of our citizens. Local officials must assess security and emergency plans. The following resources are a good starting point to assist in taking precautionary actions.

General Information

The <http://www.usa.gov> website maintains a special page of informational resources for individuals and government agencies, along with announcements from federal government agencies.

The federal **Department of Homeland Security** has the responsibility to develop and coordinate federal, state, and local counter-terrorism efforts, border security, immigration laws, and natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The Department's website is www.dhs.gov.



FEMA

The **Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)** is a division of the Department of Homeland Security. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG 101): Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning* provides general guidelines on developing Emergency Operations Plans. The document is downloadable from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at www.fema.gov/about/divisions/cpg.shtm.

For citizen preparedness, FEMA offers publications such as *Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness (IS-22)*. The information is helpful for employees and their families. <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/index.shtm>

Another site for FEMA reference materials is www.fema.gov/library. For information about FEMA training, go to: <http://www.training.fema.gov/>

The **Texas Division of Emergency Management** coordinates the state emergency program, which is intended to ensure the state and its local governments respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters, and implement plans and programs to help prevent the impact of emergencies and disasters. The home page for the Division of Emergency Management is www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/index.htm



The **National League of Cities** has resources available to offer public officials practical guidance. At the www.nlc.org website, under "Publications", "Municipal Action Guides" and "Public Safety" includes resources such as "Preparing for Pandemic Influenza" and "Protecting Essential References from Disasters". www.nlc.org/resources_for_cities/publications/MAGSbyMPR.aspx



The Department of Homeland Security's website www.ready.gov provides personal emergency planning information.





Responding to a Reported Threat

The **National Response Center Hotline** (800-424-8802) is a service that receives reports of oil, chemical, biological, and radiological releases and actual or potential domestic terrorism; provides technical assistance to emergency responders; and connects callers with appropriate Federal resources. The Center's website is <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>.

The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operations Center** (301-816-5100, collect calls accepted) receives reports of accidents involving radiological materials. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission website is <http://www.nrc.gov/>.

First responders can refer to the **Centers for Disease Control** for information, including topics such as bioterrorism, chemicals, radiation, mass casualties, natural disasters and severe weather, and disease outbreaks at www.cdc.gov/.

Information for Facilities

For emergency preparedness information for building managers, see the Building **Owners and Management Association** resources at www.boma.org. The web page, under the "Resources" tab, includes a Security and Emergency Preparedness section. The organization also offers publications for sale.

For water utility security, see the **American Water Works Association** resources at <http://www.awwa.org>.

Public works functions are especially crucial in the time of emergency. The **American Public Works Association** has many resources and publications for planning and continuity at its website <http://www.apwa.net/>. The Association's bookstore is linked from the main page.

The **TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool** has developed a Hurricane Preparedness Plan. Visit the website at www.tmlirp.org or send an email to lossprevention@tmlirp.org for more information.

The TML Risk Pool Media Library has programs that may be helpful to train your employees, including *Water Utility Security*, *Disaster Preparedness*, *Chlorine Safety*, *Workplace Violence*, and *Emergency Planning*. Please see our website, www.tmlirp.org, for additional videos.



Review and evaluate emergency preparedness plans and security measures implemented at government buildings and utilities. Keep in mind that the agencies and organizations providing resources will update materials. For example, FEMA has self-training courses. Local and county fire, police and emergency management departments should also be consulted and emergency planning should be coordinated.

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