



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Planning for the Whole Community

No. FM-2013-7 June 20, 2013

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to understand common terms used in the whole community planning process when developing a Community Resource Deployment Plan.

A hazard is an act or phenomenon that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to a person or thing. Hazards exist with or without the presence of people and/or land development.

Hazard identification is the process of collecting data to identify hazards that threaten a given area.

A hazard differs from a threat in that a threat is directed at an entity, asset, system, network or geographic area. A hazard cannot be directed; it can be an actual or potential event.

Vulnerability is susceptibility to physical injury, harm, damage or economic loss. It depends on an asset's construction, contents and economic value of its functions. It includes characteristics of design, location, security posture, operation or any combination thereof, which render an entity, asset, system, network or geographic area susceptible to possible disruption, destruction or exploitation.

Vulnerability assessment provides data on the extent of injury and damages that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area at a given time. It is the process of identifying physical features or operational attributes that render an entity, asset, system, network or geographic area susceptible or exposed to hazards.

Vulnerability assessments can be used to produce comparable estimates of vulnerabilities across a variety of hazards or assets, systems, or networks.

Exposure is the identification of people, property, systems or functions that could be lost due to a hazard. Generally, exposure includes what lies in the area the hazard could affect.

Risk depends on all three factors: hazard, vulnerability and exposure. Risk is the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities and structures in a community. It refers to the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage.

Risk may manifest at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. It is the potential for an unwanted outcome. This potential is often measured and used to compare different future situations.

Probability is a specific type of likelihood. Likelihood can be communicated using numbers (e.g., 0-100, 1-5) or phrases (e.g., low, medium, high), while probabilities must meet more stringent conditions.

Risk analysis is the systematic examination of the components and characteristics of risk. In practice, risk analysis is generally conducted to produce a risk assessment. Risk analysis can also involve aggregation of the results of risk assessments to produce a valuation of risks for the purpose of making informed decisions. In addition, risk analysis can be done on proposed alternative risk management strategies to determine the likely impact of the strategies on the reduction of overall risk.

Risk assessment product or process involves the collection of information and the assignment of values to risks for the purpose of prioritization in developing or comparing courses of action and informing decision-makers.

Sources: <http://www.hsd.org/?view&did=485325>

DHS Risk Lexicon, 2010 Edition, <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/dhs-risk-lexicon-2010.pdf>

For archived downloads, go to:

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