

RELATED TERMS

- Pre-Plan
- Target Folder
- Template
- Target Hazard Site



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PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

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- HazMat
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BEST PRACTICE

Pre-Incident Site Planning: Staging, Tactical, and Evacuation Areas

PURPOSE

Review and identify staging, tactical, and evacuation areas of target hazard sites for pre-plans/target folders.

SUMMARY

The pre-planning team can improve response time by identifying staging, tactical, and evacuation areas before an incident occurs.

DESCRIPTION

The pre-incident site planning team should identify staging, tactical, and evacuation locations at target hazard sites. HazMat and fire pre-plans do not usually involve the selection of these locations because of their narrow focus on specific response scenarios. Making tactical decisions during a major incident response can be difficult and confusing and often diverts resources away from more immediate life safety activities. Pre-identifying key staging, tactical, and evacuation areas can therefore greatly facilitate response times for emergency responders. This information should include:

For tactical, "quick action" pre-plans:

- Safe/recommended stopping distances (considering collapse possibilities)
- Evacuation routes and destinations for on-site personnel
- Incident command locations
- EMS staging areas
- Fire staging areas
- Law enforcement staging areas

For comprehensive, strategic pre-plans:

- All of the above information for tactical, "quick action" plans
- Media staging areas
- Triage locations
- Decontamination locations
- Roadblock and perimeter locations
- Observation points
- Helicopter landing and overflight areas
- Rest/recovery/rehabilitation locations
- Morgue locations
- Field hospital locations
- Donations management locations

To mitigate communications impediments and "dead spots" at certain large target hazard sites, the **Knoxville, TN** Fire Department worked with telecom companies to place extra communications antennas on-site.

- Field communications locations
- Communication impediments (e.g. locations with poor reception)
- Closest hospitals and their prescribed transit corridors
- Closest specialty hospitals (e.g. burn, pediatric, trauma) and their prescribed transit corridors
- Transit corridors (to nearest hospitals and trauma centers)

FEMA [Region VIII's Pre-Incident Planning System \(PIPS\)](#) recommends identifying at least three locations for each of the staging areas to ensure response flexibility. Since certain response scenarios or weather conditions may preclude particular staging areas, selecting staging locations in varied directions and distances from the site is recommended. Planners must also be aware of the inter-relationship of tactical locations. For instance, EMS and triage areas should be closely co-located and decontamination locations should be near mass egress points.

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