

RELATED TERMS

- Pre-Plan
- Target Folder
- Target Hazard Site



Lessons Learned Information Sharing

www.LLIS.gov

PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Emergency Management
- Occupational Safety and Health

RESOURCE GUIDE

Risk Assessment: General Guides & Tools

DESCRIPTION

Government agencies, private security firms, and think tanks have created dozens of methodologies designed to assess risk. These assessment guides are intended to be broadly applicable to more than one type of asset or infrastructure. Some of the methodologies listed here provide comprehensive assessments that include criticality, threat, and vulnerability assessments while others offer only one or two of those components. Many of the resources presented here are software tools created to aid in the risk assessment process.

RESOURCES

Methodologies

Federal Government

[Department of Commerce:](#)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\):](#)

[Vulnerability Assessment Techniques and Applications \(VATA\):](#)

The NOAA hosts a search engine for locating vulnerability assessment methodologies. The site contains a wide variety of risk assessment methodologies from which to choose.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/vata/>

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\):](#)

[Office for Domestic Preparedness \(ODP\):](#)

[State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Program:](#)

This is the official risk assessment methodology created by ODP for use at the state level. It is designed to allow states to submit risk, capabilities, and needs assessments to the federal government for federal resource allocation.

[\(LLIS.gov ID# 12741\)](#)

Associations

[ASIS International:](#)

[General Security Risk Assessment Guide:](#) This is a comprehensive risk assessment methodology designed by the international organization for security professionals.

[\(LLIS.gov ID# 12742\)](#)

Tools and Software

Federal Government

[Department of Commerce:](#)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\):](#)

[Vulnerability Assessment Techniques and Applications \(VATA\)](#)

[Listserv](#): NOAA has established a listserv especially for those working or interested in the area of vulnerability assessments. Registering for this program allows users to send email and post messages to others who share an interest in vulnerability assessment.

<http://csc.noaa.gov/mailman/listinfo/vata>

[Department of Defense \(DOD\):](#)

[Defense Threat Reduction Agency \(DTRA\):](#)

[Consequences Assessment Tool Set \(CATS\) Program](#): DTRA has produced the CATS program which is designed to predict and evaluate the potential hazard areas caused by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive incidents.

<http://cats.saic.com>

[Technical Support Working Group \(TSWG\):](#)

[Infrastructure Protection Program](#): DOD's Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) presents several infrastructure technologies and software products. These include risk assessment programs for dams, intrusion detection systems, and communications firewalls.

http://www.tswg.gov/tswg/ip/ip_currpr.htm

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\):](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\):](#)

[HAZUS](#): FEMA has developed a hazard loss estimation methodology, named HAZUS. Although created for use in the event of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc.), it can also be a valuable tool in estimating the financial impact of large-scale terrorist incidents. Federal, state, and local government agencies and the private sector can order the HAZUS software package free-of-charge by phone from the FEMA Distribution Center (1-800-480-2520).

<http://www.fema.gov/hazus/>

[National Laboratories:](#)

[Oak Ridge National Laboratory \(ORNL\):](#)

[Assessment Tools](#): The Facility Hazard Analysis Group at ORNL has developed several software packages that perform general facility vulnerability analyses. They also offer software programs that can evaluate and estimate damages from different types of incidents.

http://computing.ornl.gov/cse_home/visac.shtml

[Sandia National Laboratories:](#)

[Risk Assessment Method-Property Analysis Tool \(RAMPART\)](#)

This risk assessment methodology was developed by Sandia specifically for those with little or no risk analysis experience who wish

to perform such an assessment on buildings. The methodology is packaged in a software program that can be acquired by contacting Sandia.

[\(LLIS.gov ID# 12743\)](#)

Guidelines, Fact Sheets, and Outlines

Federal Government

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\):](#)

National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC):

Risk Management: An Essential Guide to Protecting Critical Assets

The NIPC provides a concise overview of risk assessment. It includes summaries of the different types of assessment as well as sample worksheets used to make those risk assessments.

[\(LLIS.gov ID# 12744\)](#)

[Office for Domestic Preparedness \(ODP\):](#)

Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Report: Document provides an analysis of various commercial and government vulnerability assessment methodologies which can be used by state and local governments to assess the risk associated within their areas of responsibility. The analysis provides a baseline comparative point from which to evaluate participating vulnerability assessment providers' services, products and capabilities.

State Government

[North Carolina:](#)

[Office of the Governor:](#)

Terrorism Vulnerability Self-Assessment: This is a basic vulnerability self-assessment created to assist state and local law enforcement. The self-assessment is done by assigning a numerical rating to different aspects of a community's vulnerability to terrorism and then combining those numbers to achieve a total vulnerability score for the community.

http://www.ncagr.com/bioterror_assessment.htm

[South Carolina:](#)

[Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation:](#)

Worksite Risk Assessment: The state of South Carolina provides a basic risk assessment worksheet meant to be applicable for any type of workplace. It allows building managers or security officials to list and prioritize potential risks to their facilities.

http://www.llr.state.sc.us/workplace/Risk_Assessment.pdf

Articles

Federal Government

[Department of Justice \(DOJ\):](#)

[National Institute of Justice:](#)

Robert Fein, Bryan Vossekuil, and Gwen Holden, "[Threat Assessment: An Approach to Prevent Targeted Violence](#)", *Research in Action*, July 1995).

The article outlines the use of threat assessments in preventing violence against persons and property.
([LLIS.gov ID# 12746](#))

Presentations

Federal Government

National Laboratories:

[Argonne National Laboratory:](#)

["Lessons Learned from Industry Vulnerability Assessments and September 11th"](#): This presentation was given by Ron Fisher and Jim Peerenboom of Argonne National Laboratory to a December 2001 DOE Energy Assurance conference. In it they discuss the valuable lessons learned from September 11th for risk assessment.
([LLIS.gov ID# 12747](#))

Associations

[North American Electric Reliability Council \(NERC\):](#)

["Assessing Threats, Environments, and Systems"](#): NERC's Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC, formerly CIPAG) provides this presentation, which summarizes the various aspects of criticality, vulnerability, and threat assessments.
([LLIS.gov ID# 12748](#))

DISCLAIMER

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email Feedback@llis.dhs.gov or visit www.llis.gov.