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Emergency Planning for Public Housing Authorities

PANEL

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WHY HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Affected Parties

- ❖ Insurance
- ❖ Staff
- ❖ Residents
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Media

INSURANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Some insurers will give a discount if there is an Emergency Plan in place.
- ❖ Plan creates a formal system for mitigating risk during emergencies.
- ❖ Reduces likelihood of a rejected claim due to failure

STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Which staff are essential?
- ❖ Personal Safety
- ❖ Mobilization Plans
- ❖ Communication Protocols

RESIDENTS

- ❖ Responsibilities of PHA
- ❖ Responsibilities of Residents
- ❖ Communication Protocols
- ❖ Evacuation Scenarios

COMMUNITY

Other parties that are concerned about public safety need to know your plans

- ❖ Police Department
- ❖ Fire Department
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ Ambulance

MEDIA

Examples of Media Considerations

- ❖ What will be told to the “Press”
- ❖ How will you communicate with residents?
- ❖ How can social media be of value

PLAN TOPICS

Examples Include

- ❖ Vehicle Accidents
- ❖ Power Failures
- ❖ Public Disturbance
- ❖ Robbery
- ❖ Workplace Violence
- ❖ Medical Emergencies
 - Staff
 - Residents

PLAN TOPICS

Examples Include

- ❖ Earthquake
- ❖ Severe Weather
 - Heat
 - Snow Storm
 - Hurricane
 - Tornado
- ❖ Fire
 - Residential units
 - Other PHA facilities

PLAN TOPICS

Examples Include

- ❖ Gas Leak
- ❖ Power Outage
 - Long Term
 - Short Term
- ❖ Terrorism
- ❖ Bomb Threat
- ❖ Rabid Animal

PLAN TOPICS

Examples Include

- ❖ Evacuation
- ❖ Shelter in Place
- ❖ Staff Mobilization Plans
- ❖ Responsibilities of Tenants
- ❖ Records Recovery

State of Emergency

STATE OF EMERGENCY

- ❖ Your emergency plan is your bible
- ❖ Implement the part of the plan that is necessary (is this a building/project emergency or community-wide?)
- ❖ Communicate with your local agencies
- ❖ Make sure HA staff are responding where the plan has them responding

PARTNERS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

- ❖ After 9-11 many communities set in place Emergency Plans
- ❖ Be a part of those annual discussions and plans
- ❖ Bring your Agency Plan and share, make any adjustments to fit some of your local plans, especially for State of Emergencies which are community-wide.

LOCAL PARTNERS

- ❖ County Emergency Management Department
- ❖ City/village Emergency Response network
- ❖ Red Cross
- ❖ Police Department
- ❖ Fire Department
- ❖ Public Works Department
- ❖ City/village Facilities Management

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS – DRILLS AND PLAN AWARENESS

- ❖ Annually work with staff in reviewing Emergency Plans. Project-specific staff especially.
- ❖ Participate in any Fire Department Drills offered
- ❖ Community-wide drills
- ❖ Be aware that potential emergencies change with time, so review of plan is truly an annual Risk Management process.

Evacuation Drills

EVACUATION DRILLS

- ❖ Regularly schedule evacuation drills at multifamily sites
- ❖ Include local public safety in drills
- ❖ Practice real and varying scenarios
- ❖ Have staff observe and take notes
 - What went well
 - What did not
 - Who refused to participate

EVACUATION DRILLS

Recap

- ❖ Meet with Staff
- ❖ Meet with Public Safety Officials
- ❖ What improvements can be made?

EVACUATION DRILLS

Review and Update

- ❖ Annually
- ❖ After any drill
- ❖ After any actual disaster in your jurisdiction
- ❖ Any time new information is available that shows an update is needed.

Questions?

CONTACT US

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