Risk Assessment

Comprehensive emergency management includes four phases: preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. A critical component of the preparedness phase is assessing risks and vulnerabilities, and a common tool used for this purpose is the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA). For this reason, our facility has completed an HVA that is reviewed annually.

Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

To complete our initial HVA, we completed the following six-step process:

1. Establish the participants in the HVA process. We involved knowledgeable stakeholders in the HVA process, including both internal and external (community-based) stakeholders. The community-wide HVA, typically conducted by the local office of emergency management, was also used to identify threats external to our facility.
2. Identify the hazards. This step consists of identifying all of the hazards that could significantly impact operations, the care of residents, or unusual service needs. Hazards may be both internal to the facility (e.g., failure of HVAC) or community-based, e.g., earthquake or tornado. Whether internal or external, all hazards were considered that could significantly impact our facility.
3. Assess the hazard-associated "risk" (probability and consequence). Risk is the product of probability and consequence. Each identified hazard was assessed according to its probability and impact (consequences).
4. Rank the hazards by magnitude of risk. This step involves sorting the risks into categories, e.g., high risk, moderate risk, and low risk. This step also includes expert judgment, e.g., information from emergency management officials that may be aware of community vulnerabilities, e.g., flood zone information, seismic risk, etc.
5. Analyze the vulnerability of "mission-critical" systems to each hazard. This final step assessed vulnerabilities relative to human impact, property and facility impact, and operational impact.
6. Prioritize the vulnerabilities and implement risk intervention activities (mitigation) as appropriate. Generally, our vulnerabilities are ranked by the following priorities:
    a. Life safety threat (injury/illness, death, short and long term health risk)
    b. Disruption of facility operations
    c. Business system failure
    d. Loss of customer/community trust and/or goodwill
    e. Property and/or environment damage
    f. Liability and/or legal/regulatory exposure

An example of a HVA is found in Appendix A and a supplemental Security Assessment is included in Appendix L.

Top 3 Risks

Our HVA assessment process has determined that the top three risks facing our facility include those listed below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Risk Mitigation

Mitigation may be defined as activities taken to reduce the impacts from hazards. Mitigation planning establishes short and long-term actions to eliminate hazards or to reduce the impact of those hazards if they cannot be eliminated.

Based on the results of the HVA, the mitigation strategy considers, but is not be limited to, the following:

- The use of appropriate building construction standards.
- Relocation, retrofitting or removal of structures at risk.
- Removal or reduction of the amount or size of the hazard.
- Segregation of the hazard from that which is to be protected.
- Provision of protective systems or equipment.
- Establishing hazard warning and communications procedures.
- Redundancy or duplication of critical systems, equipment, information, operations, or materials.

Our emergency operations program is designed to be “all hazard” meaning that we remain vigilant and ready to respond to all emergency events whether they have been pre-identified through our HVA or not. This is accomplished through practiced team work, good communication and the process of incident action planning.