

Chapter 6

Hazard-Unique Planning Considerations

Introduction

This chapter provides guidance for developing hazard-specific appendices. Hazard-specific appendices offer a means of extending functional annexes to address special and unique response procedures, notifications, protective actions, emergency public information, and other needs generated by a particular hazard. They allow the jurisdiction, in its EOP, to address priorities identified through hazard analysis and to meet detailed regulatory requirements associated with some hazards. A hazard-specific appendix should be prepared for any functional annex that does not, by itself, give enough information to perform the function adequately in the face of a particular high-priority hazard. Some hazards may require that appendices be prepared for various functional annexes; others may affect planning for only one or two functions. Appendices may be long or very brief depending upon need.

Think of hazard-specific appendices as supplements to functional annexes. Planning considerations common to all hazards should be addressed in functional annexes, not repeated in hazard-specific appendices.

Development of a Hazard-Specific Appendix

The decision to develop a hazard-specific appendix should be based on special planning requirements not common to other hazards addressed in the functional annex, and on regulatory considerations that may require extensive, detailed planning that is inappropriate for inclusion in the annex.

As the planning team develops each of the functional annexes, close scrutiny must be given to the "unique" characteristics of those hazards that require special attention. Further, the planning team must know the regulatory requirements associated with the hazards their jurisdiction faces.

This approach promotes consistency and continuity and provides the flexibility to include a hazard-specific appendix or not, based on the need to cover information that is relevant to the hazard, but is not appropriate for inclusion in the functional annex.

Content of a Hazard-Specific Appendix

The content of a hazard-specific appendix focuses on the special planning needs generated by the hazard and should not duplicate the information in the functional annex. The appendix contains unique and regulatory response planning details that apply to a single hazard. It addresses the essential operational actions that must be accomplished to facilitate the successful completion of a particular response function. As appropriate, the appendix should quantify the risk area, geography, and demography considerations that apply to the hazard.

It is recommended that hazard-specific appendices follow the same structure--i.e., include, as appropriate, the same content sections (Purpose, Situation and Assumptions, Concept of Operations, Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities, Administration and Logistics, Plan Development, and Authorities and References)--as the functional annexes.

Tabs may be used to: identify hazard-specific risk areas and evacuation routes; specify provisions and protocols for warning the public and disseminating emergency public information; and specify the types of protective equipment and detection devices for responders, etc. Tabs serve as work aids, and include such things as maps, charts, tables, checklists, resource inventories, and summaries of critical information.

The responsibility for making the decision on what to include in a hazard-specific appendix is vested with the jurisdiction's planning team. The flexibility of the planning approach described in this Guide should make it possible to accommodate and satisfy:

- The planning requirements associated with unique aspects of hazards and with various regulatory authorities.
- The different constituencies in the jurisdiction's emergency response organizations.
- The members of the planning team.

Table 6-1 identifies the core functional annexes discussed in Chapter 5, and provides a synopsis of the typical hazard-specific planning considerations that are associated with them. The planning team should consider Table 6-1

when making its decision on the kinds of information to be included in the appendices that they deem it is appropriate to prepare.

Description of Unique and Regulatory Planning Considerations

The attachments provide a brief summary of seven significant hazards that threaten many communities in the United States. The information provided on each of these hazards focuses on the specific types of planning considerations that should be examined, analyzed, and applied, as appropriate, in the development of hazard-specific appendices. The format for each attachment has been structured to be consistent with the planning considerations outlined above. Please note that what follows is only summary information. Information on other hazards your jurisdiction faces and additional relevant data on the hazards addressed in this chapter should be readily available to the planning team. Much of the needed information should have been gathered as part of the jurisdiction's hazard analysis. For additional information, the planner should review the applicable hazard-specific planning guides and other relevant technical manuals to gain more insight into the hazards and to obtain detailed information on the emergency response planning considerations associated with each one.