NN/LM National Emergency Preparedness Project Baseline Preparedness Assessment

Middle Atlantic Region Summary Report

In April 2008, MAR conducted a baseline assessment of all Full Network Members as part of the National Emergency Preparedness Project conducted across all regions of NN/LM. The intent of the baseline project was to assess the level of emergency preparedness in each region, and to determine the training needs of network members on this topic.

The Emergency Preparedness Project Baseline Preparedness Assessment was facilitated through an online questionnaire tool using SurveyMonkey. The online questionnaire link was emailed to 380 MAR Full Network Members considered to be health science libraries. Members had access to the online questionnaire for four weeks. After the first week the questionnaire was available, the MAR staff telephoned all non-respondents to encourage completion of the questionnaire. Two hundred and seventy-six members responded to the questionnaire resulting in a 72.6% response rate.

More than half of the respondents, 69.5%, do not have emergency preparedness and response plans for their library (Table 1). Many respondents acknowledge limited staff time (57%) and limited staff knowledge about emergency planning (49%) as barriers on the library's ability to develop emergency preparedness plans (Table 3). A majority of the respondents, 84%, have not participated in training for emergency preparedness and response for libraries in the past two years (Table 4). Respondents showed a great interest in specific types of training support from NN/LM for emergency preparedness (see Table 5).

Table 1. Your library's emergency preparedness and response plans:				
	YES	**NO**	**DON'T KNOW**	**TOTAL RESPONSES**
	%	**%**	**%**	**N (number)**
Does your library have an emergency preparedness and response plan specific to the library? [1]	24.6%	69.5%	5.9%	272
Does your library have a continuity of services/operations plan? [2]	29.2%	64.2%	6.6%	271
Does your library have a partnership with another library to provide services that your library cannot provide during emergencies?	33.0%	61.5%	5.6%	270
Does your library have a salvage/recovery plan to mitigate emergency-related damages to library property (such as collections, equipment, facility)?	14.5%	76.2%	9.3%	269
Does someone in your library have emergency preparedness and response responsibilities written into his or her job description?	9.6%	84.9%	5.5%	272
Is someone in your library in charge of a salvage/recovery plan?	20.9%	73.5%	5.6%	268

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[1] Emergency preparedness and response plans are documents with detailed procedures related to actions taken when preparing for and responding to possible emergency situations, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, gas leaks, etc. These plans often include assessment of disaster risks and disaster recovery actions.

[2] "Continuity of services" refers to procedures for continuing core library services in the event that your library must shut down due to some kind of emergency.

Table 2. Your library's part in emergency preparedness and response plans outside the library:					
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL RESPONSES
	%	%	%	%	N
Does your library have a role to provide library/information services as part of the emergency preparedness and response plan of a parent organization? [3]	26.4%	44.6%	20.8%	8.2%	269
Are your library's resources and collection covered in your parent organization's salvage/recovery plan?	14.8%	22.2%	56.7%	6.3%	270
Is there a role for your library to provide "non-library/information services" in the event of a major disaster?	17.0%	48.9%	31.5%	2.6%	270
Is there a role for your library staff to provide "non-library/information services" in the event of a major disaster?	22.3%	43.9%	29.7%	4.1%	269

[3] For example, a larger administrative entity of which your library is a part, such as a hospital, university, health system, etc..

Table 3. Have any of the following barriers had an effect on your library's ability to develop emergency plans?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL RESPONSES
	%	%	%	%	N
Limited staff time	56.7%	25.0%	10.1%	8.2%	268
Limited staff knowledge about emergency planning	49.1%	30.9%	11.7%	8.3%	265
Lack of funds	37.5%	31.7%	21.2%	9.7%	259
Lack of need	18.0%	46.7%	23.9%	11.4%	255

Table 4. In the past two years, has anyone on your library staff participated in the following types of training:

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL RESPONSES
	%	%	%	N
Emergency preparedness and response for libraries	9.9%	84.2%	5.9%	273
Library continuity of services/operations	5.2%	88.9%	5.9%	270
Salvage/recovery for libraries	6.3%	87.8%	5.9%	270
Safety and evacuation for libraries	18.0%	76.8%	5.2%	267

Table 5. What types of support could NN/LM offer to make your library better prepared to respond to an emergency? (Check all that apply)	
	CHECKED (%)
Training in emergency preparedness and response	75.3%
Assistance in developing continuity of services/operations plans	78.9%
Training in how to enhance your library's role in your institution/local community during a major disaster	67.4%
Assistance in forming partnerships with other libraries to help your library with continuing services during emergencies	60.8%