

LEPC Approach to Resiliency

Emergency Management and Response
Information Sharing and Analysis Center
(EMR-ISAC)
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NOTE: This INFOGRAM will be distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures. For further information, contact the Emergency Management and Response- Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) at (301) 447-1325 or by e-mail at emr-isac@dhs.gov.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) continues to study the costs and benefits of critical infrastructure resiliency (CIR) for Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations and the communities they serve. Whether a disaster is manmade or due to natural causes, the EMR-ISAC learned that resiliency is vital for a rapid recovery. Resiliency measures ensure that critical ESS and community infrastructures can either continue operations during a crisis or quickly reconstitute essential services after the event.

The CIR study by the EMR-ISAC additionally disclosed that numerous county Emergency Management Agencies experienced some success with all-hazards emergency planning by developing a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Generally, these committees achieve local and regional coordination, address common problems, develop solutions, focus limited resources, and prepare effective multi-jurisdictional emergency operations plans.

Typically, LEPC membership includes a diverse representation of local and regional stakeholders: elected officials, police, fire, emergency medical services, public health, hospitals, public works, environmental, transportation, education, industry, media, Red Cross, and any others who could bring specific expertise to the planning process. At many locations, the goals of the LEPC are to facilitate community or regional emergency preparedness, mitigate vulnerabilities, and minimize consequences.

To effectively resolve vulnerabilities and reduce the consequences of a disaster, a LEPC must actively coordinate and plan for CIR. Whereas critical infrastructure protection (CIP) activities should ideally eliminate vulnerabilities, CIR measures should curtail the consequences of a calamity and enable organizations to continue operations or restore them as soon as possible after an incident.

Through the unity of effort and synergy achieved by the cooperation of a broad-based membership, the LEPC has tremendous potential to formulate plans and conclude arrangements that provide the capacity to maintain continuity of indispensable services during and after a catastrophe. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC encourages the creation of a LEPC within each county or region with a dedicated effort toward prevention, protection, and resiliency.

For more information about LEPCs:
http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/epcra_plan.htm#LEPC.

For more information about Resiliency:
<http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandDefense/bg2150.cfm>.