

UNIT 2: PLANNING

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Rapid Needs Assessment**Planning**

Unit 2 - 1

Visual 1

Objectives

At the end of this unit participants will:

- Be properly registered
- Understand the required safety procedures
- Meet the course facilitators and other participants



Unit 1 - 2

Visual 2

Importance**Why is a Rapid
Needs Assessment
important?**

Unit 2 - 3

Visual 3

Importance

The ability of local governments to perform a Rapid Needs Assessment accurately and within the first few hours after an incident or emergency is critical to providing a response designed to save lives and support life sustaining actions.



Unit 2 - 4

Visual 4

UNIT 2: PLANNING**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this unit participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a Rapid Needs Assessment
- Describe the starting point for planning for a Rapid Needs Assessment

IMPORTANCE: WHY IS A RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPORTANT?**IMPORTANCE**

This is the official answer to the question on the previous visual.

Benefits

Rapid Needs Assessments provide:

- Effective life-saving and life-sustaining measures
- Tools for response prioritization
- Effective resource requests
- Disaster Public Information



Unit 2 - 5

Visual 5

Requirements

To be effective, Rapid Needs Assessments must be:

- Planned
- Effectively and rapidly initiated
- Effectively analyzed and prioritized



Unit 2 - 6

Visual 6

Coordination and Involvement

Planning and response involves participation from:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire, EMS, Hospitals and medical providers
- Public Works
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
- Emergency Management Agencies



Unit 2 - 7

Visual 7

BENEFITS

These are some of the benefits of an effective Rapid Needs Assessment. A good assessment will allow community leaders to prioritize response actions to have the greatest life-saving and life sustaining benefits. As resources will be limited on the local level during the first few hours of a disaster or emergency event, the Rapid Needs Assessment should allow for the effective use of resources. Likewise, it will allow local officials to request those resources that are not available locally and are needed to support life sustaining and life saving measures.

REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive the benefits of a Rapid Needs Assessment the assessment process must be effectively planned. Assessments just do not happen when a disaster or emergency occurs. They require planning and training to support the planned activity if they are to realize their greatest potential. When needed, the Rapid Needs Assessment must be rapidly implemented by local governments. Assessment teams must be identified and trained together. The field teams need to be supported by personnel who can rapidly analyze the findings of the individual teams and presented to management to support prioritization and decision-making.

COORDINATION AND INVOLVEMENT

An effective Rapid Needs Assessment requires planning and participation from a variety of agencies. The basic agencies that are commonly used are law enforcement, fire and EMS, hospitals and medical providers, public works, volunteer disaster response agencies and organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army and emergency management agencies.

Assessment

Assessment *must* focus on:

- Issues directly related to life-saving or life-sustaining needs
- On areas that are known to be problematic
- Data collection on information that is essential for analysis



Unit 2 - 8

Visual 8

ASSESSMENT

It is important to always remember that the Rapid Needs Assessment is not a complete damage assessment. The Rapid Needs Assessment *must* focus on issues related to life-sustaining or life-saving needs and operations. In addition, other areas that are known to be problematic must be included in the process. For example, a local campground may be subject to flash flooding during heavy rains. Plans should be made for this area to be assessed if a major rainfall event occurs.

The data collected by the Rapid Needs Assessment must focus on those subjects and areas that are essential for analysts to review to derive further information and data to be used by decision-makers.

Remember

Prioritization is a *must*

- You *must* understand what is important to assess
- You *must* understand the cause and effect relationship of what you are assessing
- The assessment *must* look beyond the obvious



Unit 2 - 9

Visual 9

REMEMBER

One of the most critical aspects of the process is the ability to prioritize. This is essential, as in an emergency you simply do not have time to look at everything. The prioritization must be based on what is really important which many times must look beyond the obvious. Causes and effects can play a big role in the process too.

Starting Point

- Review the hazard analysis
- Review the risk analysis
- Determine vulnerability
- Determine effects
- Determine consequences



Unit 2 - 10

Visual 10

STARTING POINT

Your starting point to plan for a rapid needs assessment begins with a review of the hazard analysis for the community. What types of hazards do you face? Each community will face different hazards and therefore there is not a book solution to this question. Next you need to review what are the risks associated with those hazards. For example, a risk associated with a number of weather disasters is high winds. You start prioritizing your work by focusing on those risks that reappear most often in the analysis and therefore pose the greatest likelihood of being problematic. Once you know the risks, you need to look at the vulnerabilities in the community associated with those risks. While high winds may be expected throughout the community, you need to look at what those high winds will do. For example, they may bring down trees and cause large amounts of debris. They may cause structural collapse. Be careful that you do not lump everything into the same category. For example, older construction with basements will pose different vulnerabilities than new home construction on slabs or wide span steel buildings. Then you need to assess the specific effect of each vulnerability.

The effects of a building collapse involving wood structures with basements may be that people seeking refuge from the storm are trapped in rubble below grade. Or that a structural collapse involving a steel building may require heavy rescue equipment to rescue trapped survivors.

Finally, you must determine the consequences of that effect. This is where priorities are really set. In a flood event, would it be a greater priority to assess the life saving and life sustaining needs of a manufactured home park in the flood plain or that with an area of multi-floored masonry construction? And finally, determine the consequence of each effect. This will also help you set priorities for the actual assessment process. Some consequences may have a higher assessment and response priority than others, particularly when you are looking at the limitations immediately following a disaster or major emergency event.

History

- Does the hazard analysis identify areas more likely to be impacted?
- Have past events impacted some areas more than others?



Unit 3 - 11

Visual 11

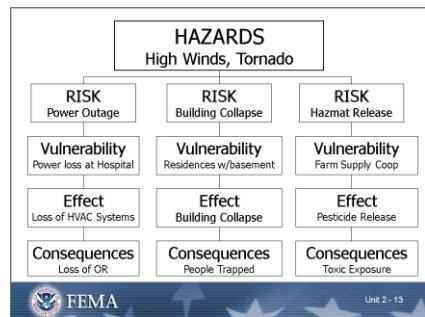
Planning and Resources

Reviewing the Hazard Analysis for the community can help set priorities and resource needs for the rapid needs assessment



Unit 2 - 12

Visual 12



Unit 2 - 13

Visual 13

HISTORY

Another starting point for an analysis would be past history. Has the community hazard analysis identified any types of disasters or location of a disaster in the community that can be researched to determine if there is a possibility of a similar event?

PLANNING AND RESOURCES

By reviewing the hazard analysis, you can also get a sense of what the priorities may be in an emergency and what resources may be required to adequately perform the rapid needs assessment.

HAZARDS (HIGH WINDS, TORNADO)

This is a schematic diagram of the process. In this case, the hazard is high winds or a tornado. The currently identified risks are: Power Outage, Building Collapse, and Hazmat release. Let's look at the power outage risk. One of the vulnerabilities identified is a power loss at the hospital. Through research, you find that while the hospital has a generator to provide service in the event of a power loss, the Heating, Ventilation, Air Condition (HVAC) system is not on the generator due to the large amount of power it would consume.

This is fairly typical of most hospitals. So in the event of a power loss even if the generator is running, the effect of the power outage would be the loss of HVAC systems. The loss of an HVAC system has both immediate and delayed effects on a facility. If the HVAC system is not restored in about 36 hours during summer, the facility will become uninhabitable due to high temperatures. But a more immediate concern is what does the loss of the HVAC do *now*. The loss of an HVAC system in a hospital may have the immediate effect of shutting down surgical operations as ventilation is essential for climate and infection control in operating suites.

By reviewing the hazard analysis, you can also get a sense of what the priorities may be in an emergency and what resource may be required to adequately perform the rapid needs assessment. The next activity will allow you to put this process to use. In a disaster where there are many critically injured people, this could have devastating results. Therefore, if this community has a disaster that includes a power loss at the local hospital, a rapid needs assessment should be made to determine what critical services have been lost at the facility due to the power loss. Other complications at the hospital may include the loss of advanced medical imaging, such as CAT scans and MRI's which are heavy power consumers that are frequently not on emergency generator circuits.

Group Activity 1

- Form groups of 3–5 people
- Pick a spokesperson for the group
- Using the next visual as an example discuss a FLOOD Hazard and identify at least three Risks associated with a flood
- Be prepared to report your findings to the class
- You have 15 minutes for this activity

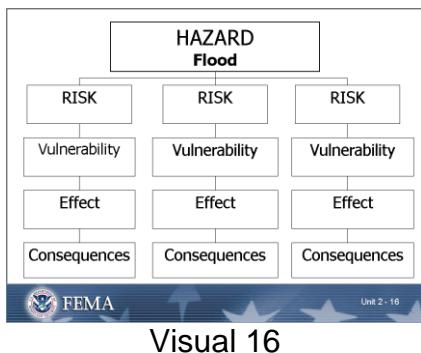


Unit 2 - 15

Visual 15

GROUP ACTIVITY 1

- Form groups of 3–5 people
- Pick a spokesperson for the group
- Using the next visual as an example discuss a FLOOD Hazard and identify at least three Risks associated with a flood
- Be prepared to report your findings to the class
- You have 15 minutes for this activity



Visual 16

HAZARD FLOOD

Group Activity 1
Report Out
Time!

FEMA Unit 2 - 17

Review

At the end of this unit participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a Rapid Needs Assessment
- Describe the starting point for planning for a Rapid Needs Assessment



Visual 18

REVIEW

At the end of this unit participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a Rapid Needs Assessment
- Describe the starting point for planning for a Rapid Needs Assessment

And now...

**Take a
10 minute
break!**



Visual 19

UNIT CONCLUSION

Take a 10 minute break.

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