

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Businesses, childcares, schools, and organizations should develop an emergency response plan and prepare for how they will continue essential business functions during an emergency. The plan should be comprehensive and cover how the organization will respond to “all hazards.” The basic elements of the plan should be universal, although they may need to be adapted to fit the needs of an individual organization.

In any type of emergency, the goal is to have a plan in place that will minimize damage; ensure the safety of staff, children, and students; protect vital records/assets; allow for self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours; and provide for continuity of critical business operations. In addition, each organization should develop a plan for how they would handle a long term event that could result in a significant reduction of workforce, such as an influenza pandemic.

The importance of planning prior to an event cannot be stressed enough. It is essential to have a written plan that has been discussed and practiced with all employees and discussed with children and their families. This preparation will allow everyone to know their roles and responsibilities when an emergency occurs. In addition to the organization having an emergency response plan, it is necessary for employees to have individual and family preparedness plans. An organization is only as prepared as their workers are. With everyone prepared, an organization will be in a better position to manage any type of emergency.

Check with your local or state health department or childcare licensing groups, department of human services or department of education to see if they may be available to answer questions.

Emergency Preparedness Planning Resources for Childcare

Information about crisis and disaster planning for childcare and parents/guardians of children in childcare settings

- California Childcare Health Program
http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/healthandsafety/EmergencyEN061406_adr.pdf
- ChildCare Aware
<http://usa.childcareaware.org/families-programs/resources/crisis-and-disaster-resources/>
<https://issuu.com/naccrra/docs/disaster-preparation-child-care-centers>
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/management/disaster-preparedness/?hasBeenRedirected=1>
- FEMA <http://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-36>
- Save the Children
http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.8777055/k.18AB/Get_Ready_Get_Safe_Plan_Ahead.htm
- National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView/9.2.4.3>
- Offices of Head Start National Centers <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/health/docs/health-services-newsletter-201410.pdf>

Emergency Preparedness Planning Resources for Schools

Information about crisis and disaster planning for schools and parents/guardians of school aged children

- American Academy of Pediatrics <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Schools.aspx>
- Minnesota Depart of Education <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/SchSaf/EmerPrep/http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/school/index.html>
- Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/resources-for-schools>
- U.S. Department of Education www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/crisisplanning.pdf
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services <http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/school/>

Individual and Family Emergency Preparedness Resources

These sites are comprehensive and contain in-depth information on emergency planning for individuals, families with children, senior citizens, and persons with special needs, and those with pets. Many sites have several brochures that can be downloaded.

<http://www.codeready.org/>

<https://www.ready.gov/>

<http://www.flu.gov/>

<http://amemminnesota.org/>

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.redcross.org/>

Additional Information to Prepare Children

- American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org/disasters/

Additional Information to Prepare Children with Special Needs

- American Academy of Pediatrics <http://www2.aap.org/advocacy/emergprep.htm>

Additional Information for Seniors

- Department of Homeland Security <https://www.ready.gov/seniors>
- Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/seniors>

Additional Information for Special Populations

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services <https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/specialpopulationsanddisasters.html>
- National Council on Disabilities <http://www.ncd.gov/policy/saving-lives-including-people-disabilities-emergency-planning>



Information Available in Different Languages

- ECHO (Emergency & Community Health Outreach) www.echominnesota.org/

Volunteer Opportunities

- Medical Reserve Corps <https://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>
- Community Emergency Response Teams <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>

