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For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

The InfoGram

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Mutual Aid Resource Planner

In the aftermath of a disaster, emergency responders regularly rely on mutual aid support from neighboring towns to help response and to cover the area while recovery efforts continue, which can take days or longer. It is important to have such plans already in place; scrambling for regional assistance takes time out from important life-saving measures.

In its research on improving mutual aid partnerships, the Department of Homeland Security's First Responders Group (FRG), part of the Science and Technology Directorate, developed an application to help jurisdictions create better mutual aid plans. The [Mutual Aid Resource Planner](#) (MARP) allows planners to develop capability-based mutual aid plans using a cloud-based platform, enabling rapid deployment and streamlining information sharing. The MARP:

- Allows users to share plans and resource needs with partners;
- Helps align planners with operations staff;
- Provides a simplified planning template.

This application has gone through testing and is now operational and available. Access to MARP requires a [membership to the National Information Sharing Consortium](#) (NISC). NISC membership is at the organizational level, and multiple people can be covered under the membership.

(Source: [DHS S&T](#))

Helping Workplaces Prepare for Earthquakes

Workplaces in areas prone to earthquakes should have some kind of business continuity plan in place to help them recover. Seventy-five percent of businesses lacking business continuity plans are gone within three years of an earthquake. Small businesses are especially at risk. Organizations or agencies that can't go out of business – such as first responders, government offices, and service agencies – are similarly impacted, but must continue to function while trying to bounce back.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [QuakeSmart Toolkit](#) designed to give workplaces actionable guidance on things they can do to help mitigate the damage of an earthquake. This will minimize the impact to the workplace, improve life safety, and lessen any financial losses that might be incurred. [QuakeSmart](#) has three-steps:

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

- Identify Your Risk – find out your earthquake risk, identify vulnerabilities;
- Make a Plan – identify measures needed to secure property, budget for them;
- Take Action – prioritize and implement the needs identified in step 2.

Reinforced workplaces are key to a better prepared community. Workplaces able to keep functioning with little or no serious damage or delays enable a community recover more quickly as well. First responders should consider working with businesses to enact some of these life and property saving measures, and remember to address these issues in their own workplace, too.

(Source: [QuakeSmart](#))

Saving Heirlooms and Heritage After a Disaster

The amount of family and cultural treasures and photos lost to natural disasters over the years is unimaginable and the loss of such cherished keepsakes is very painful. Life safety is always the primary concern, but protecting valuable history, both family and cultural, and salvaging what is damaged after the fact is another aspect of emergency management and response not often covered by state or local agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a number of other groups teamed up to create [Heritage Emergency National Task Force](#), providing a set of [resources for both homeowners and collecting institutions](#) like museums. Resources cover a wide range of topics such as salvaging photographs, textiles, films, and furniture; preventing mold damage; finding a conservator; grants for school libraries affected by disasters; assistance for self-employed people (i.e., professional artists); and much more.

Cultural institutions can also access [National Heritage Responders](#), a team that assists with conservation efforts after a disaster. The team deploys to major emergencies and has a 24/7 hotline institutions can call for smaller problems, such as damage from a leaking pipe.

The Smithsonian's [Cultural Rescue Initiative](#) also works with international partners assisting with efforts in war-torn or natural disaster-hit countries. Whether it is a structure damaged by an earthquake or bomb, or family pictures and mementos destroyed by flood, you can't separate cultural heritage from people and often efforts to save such treasures give hope in the face of devastation.

(Source: [Smithsonian Institution](#))

National Volunteer Week Focus on Recruitment

This is National Volunteer Week and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is again targeting a major issue volunteer departments struggle with: recruitment. For a number of reasons, departments are finding it more and more difficult to attract new operational members and as a result, volunteer firefighters are being spread thin. In addition, difficulties recruiting younger members means the workforce is also aging.

The NVFC course "Volunteer Recruitment for Emergency Services" is free through next week. The course discusses the problems departments face and offers solutions to address recruiting challenges. It is available through the [NVFC Virtual Classroom](#). Supporting recruitment help is available through NVFC's "[Make Me a Firefighter](#)" program.

(Source: [NVFC](#))

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