

Plan Development and Maintenance in San Antonio, Texas

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Emergency procedures are indispensable in so far as addressing the threats that crises pose is concerned. A standard emergency operations plan, according to Rubin's (2012) argument, is one that encompasses specific actions steps for multi-agency response to an emergency with the aim of recovering from different hazards. This means that emergency plan development and maintenance has to factor in the response and recovery components. The planning and maintenance process has to take into consideration a risk-informed approach to synchronizing the planning, maintenance, and implementation process to ascertain that emergencies of greater magnitude do not take a toll on the emergency operations plan (EOP). This paper presents a portion of an emergency plan through explicating the plan development and maintenance for San Antonio, Texas.

Plan Development

For the emergency response teams in San Antonio, Texas, the first step in emergency development is to identify the full range of threats that are classifiable in the case of emergency. Federal Emergency Management Agency (2010) has mentioned that identification of emergencies entails clustering hazards in a way that intergovernmental emergency response units can point out a broad range of disasters on the basis of the threats they pose to the welfare of citizens. For this reason, agencies like the San

Antonio Fire Training Academy, the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management will play a pivotal role in this phase of the plan development. The planning is not a one-time process. Instead, it is an iterative procedure that the San Antonio Office of Emergency Management will collaborate with the local community in San Antonio to have a wide pool of potential emergencies that need to be addressed when there is the need to do so. Engaging the community, according to Perry and Lindell (2011), ensures that community-based interests form part of the emergency plan.

In San Antonio, the plan development process should also address the possibility of both catastrophic and traditional incidents occurring. This means that in emergency planning for the San Antonio community, there have to be scalable planning solutions that the emergency response and operational personnel can act to depending on the magnitude of a crisis. This entails using different emergency response strategies for both the catastrophic and traditional incidents. Early understanding of these events is invaluable to planning for the risks that come with various emergencies (Zhang, Li & Liu, 2012).

Laying down a strategy for resource allocation, task delegation, accountability of senior and subordinate emergency response personnel, and the applicable statutes is also critical. For example, the ordinances of San Antonio city laws will play a major role in informing the implementation of the plan in the event that a disaster strikes anywhere in the cosmopolitan

city. The higher-ranking emergency preparedness officials will delegate duties accordingly to reflect the specifics of an occurrence. The role of the senior officials is that of coordinating emergency response activities.

Concerning resource allocation, more resources will be allocated to the crises that are of a higher magnitude while fewer resources will be allocated to the disasters whose magnitude is relatively small. To efficiently execute the resource allocation process, financial analysts will establish a research-based list of priorities for informing the allocation of different resources to specific activities of the entire emergency planning process.

Plan Maintenance

Plan maintenance sharpens the propensity of the multi-agency emergency planning and the response teams to act promptly when a disaster strikes. Reviewing the range of threats delineated in the emergency plan encompasses using an iterative style of determining the possibility of newer hazards occurring and their risk scale (Zhang, Li & Liu, 2012). This way, the maintenance task force can gain an intricate understanding of the need to improve the response mechanisms for different threat categories.

As part of the maintenance, it is important to scrape off the overly detailed sections of the EOP. Exceedingly comprehensive plans make their implementation quite difficult (Rubin, 2012). This is attributable to the possibility of frustrations and confusions among the personnel tasked with

executing the EOP. Through maintaining lucidity of the plan, mitigating the devastating effects of human-caused and natural incidences follows a systematic approach; thereby, increasing the effectiveness of the emergency response operations. For example, in a disaster involving terrorism, the emergency response units of the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) can identify opportunistic events that take place after the major crisis; therefore, instituting proper measures for preventing further damages of terror attacks if the EOP is precise.

Maintenance of the plan also necessitates maintaining a watchful eye on the state and federal plans. This means that devising a way of integrating the Federal plans with the Texas State emergency plans will increase the chances of an emergency being addressed within a short time. As such, revising the emergency policies from time to time is critical.

Conclusion

This paper has strategically accentuated that emergency plan development and maintenance is important in organizing and effecting the response to varied disasters. The fundamental factor that underpins this emergency plan and development is the need to prioritize the safety of San Antonio dwellers when emergencies strike. This implies that the coordination of emergency response activities becomes easier besides flowing smoothly.

The discussion creates a crucial basis for EOP information analysis and dissemination.

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