



ANNEX B

Technological Disasters



This template provided as part of the Faithfully Ready Initiative. Information on Faithfully Ready is available at faithfullyready.org

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HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCIES

Because of Houston's role as a leader in the development, refining and manufacture of petroleum and chemical products, hazardous materials continue to pose a threat to public safety. Hazardous materials are generally well-contained, and when accidents or intentional incidents occur, there are response protocols in place to help keep the public safe. Materials can cause potential damage, health effects, or other emergency conditions in manufacturing and distribution, whether by road or rail.

Shelter-in-Place

In the event a hazardous material is released in a specific area, whether accidentally or intentionally, local officials may issue a "Shelter-in-Place" warning. This message will be transmitted through local media, local emergency notification systems, and possibly, through Wireless Emergency Alerts.

1. Preparation
 - Ensure that facilities have pre-designated "shelter spaces" that are away from windows and doors and can isolate air from the outside.
 - Understand the facility's risk from hazardous materials. This includes proximity to chemical/petroleum facilities, hazardous material routes and/or railroads.
 - Prepare "shelter rooms" with sufficient plastic sheeting, duct tape, and provisions to best protect people.
2. Response
 - If a hazardous materials incident occurs near the facility, attempt to keep people uphill, upwind, and upstream from the incident.
 - If a "Shelter-in-Place" order is issued for the facility, direct all individuals to seek shelter in designated shelter spaces, applying plastic sheeting to doors and windows that may come in contact with outside air.
 - If a "Shelter-in-Place" order is issued, facility management should immediately turn off all H/VAC systems to isolate the air inside from being contaminated.
 - Listen for additional instructions from local officials and suspend all activities until an "all clear" is issued.

FIRE

A fire may originate within a building or threaten from the outside. A small fire in a rural wooded area or urban area can quickly become out of control and jeopardize the safety of others in the vicinity. Internal fires may result from a variety of causes, ranging from carelessness to arson.

1. Preparation
 - Equipment

- All personnel and members should be familiar with the location and operation of the alarm systems and fire extinguishers.
- All equipment should be marked and maintained in accordance with local and state regulations.

Evacuation Plans

Evacuation Plan Instructions

- Provide to personnel and members at the beginning of the evacuation instructions and include a method to safeguard records.
- Keep a copy in all classrooms in the house of worship.
- Post by fire exit diagram.
- Provide to designated members and staff responsible for closing windows and doors when leaving rooms, checking adjacent restrooms, meeting rooms, storage areas, assisting members with special needs, and guarding exits to prevent unauthorized persons from entry into buildings.
- Exercise in accordance to evacuation plans avoiding patterned responses that have members gathering in the same location.
- Establish personnel to shut down utilities and conduct safety checks of grounds and transportation.

2. Response

- Sound an alarm and notify the fire department immediately upon the discovery of a fire.
- Conduct evacuation of buildings immediately and in an orderly manner using designated evacuation paths and exits.
- Use evacuation procedures including member accountability, closing doors and windows, and perimeter control.
- Remain vigilant and aware of surrounding activities during evacuations.
- Avoid establishing a single evacuation assemble point.
- House of worship is encouraged to have evacuation emergency kits.
- Assigned person will shut off power and gas during an evacuation, if possible.
- Doors should not be locked in the building in order to allow public safety quick access.

CYBER DISRUPTION

Cyber attacks can not only comprise personal information, or access to an organization's files, they can also result in impacts to physical infrastructure and systems, such as heating/Air

Conditioning and fire suppression systems. Be prepared to be unable to use technological systems in the event of a cyber attack.

1. Preparation

- a. Ensure protocols are in place to protect essential systems, such as H/VAC, fire suppression or surveillance systems.
- b. Ensure that all employees continually exercise good “cyber-hygiene”, including re-setting passwords on a regular basis, and avoiding clicking on suspicious links in emails and text messages.

2. Response

- a. If a cyber intrusion is detected, contact local law-enforcement to make an initial report. They may refer the matter to other agencies with a role in national cyber security.
- b. If needed, suspend normal technology-based operations and use non-technological solutions for operations.