
3. Damage Assessment

Following a crisis or disaster situation, a thorough evaluation of the _____ (*facility name*) shall be conducted to determine if any hazards or vulnerabilities exist. The following areas will be inspected to assure a safe environment prior to re-entry:

- Structural elements – building integrity
- Security of windows and doors
- Interior finish damage (non-load bearing)
- Reliability of walking surfaces (slip / trip / fall hazards)
- All utilities (gas, electric, water)
- All mechanical systems
- All fire and life safety systems
- Presence of rodents, insects, or other pests
- Presence of contaminated environment (bad air or standing water)
- Presence of hazardous materials
- Availability of adequate drinking and potable water
- Availability of adequate food and associated supplies
- Availability of adequate pharmaceuticals and associated supplies
- Availability of laundry supplies and necessary linens
- Availability of all supplies needed to operate the facility
- Availability of appropriate staffing levels to safely operate the facility
- Data processing backup
- Any other relevant items

Remember:

- Do not touch loose or dangling wires
- Do not step in pools of water, where such wires may be grounded
- Remove boards from windows as appropriate to reduce the growth of mold

See Appendix EE for Checklist for Infection Control

4. Recovery Analysis

Following a crisis or disaster situation, it will be important to identify general issues that will improve the capabilities of the facility to prepare for, respond to, and recover from similar incidents in the future.

The following points shall be considered when analyzing the incident:

- Determine how the facility can improve preparedness, response, and recovery from staff members who were involved with the handling of a particular crisis or disaster situation and determine by what methods this information can be obtained (formal investigation, critique, interview, etc.) and utilized
- Determine if any personnel policies or business practices such as shift schedules, compensation (overtime, etc.), or other issues deterred staff members from serving during the crisis or disaster situation and/or returning to their duties after the incident
- Identify any standards, requirements, or practices that hindered the facility's overall ability to ensure resident and staff safety