

Dewberry's Emergency Management Services

For more than 20 years, we have worked with clients on efforts to enhance mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from major disasters and emergencies. Our experience working with local, state, and federal departments and agencies has provided us with the knowledge and ability to help our clients develop effective and robust strategies for all phases of the disaster management cycle.

We understand the critical differences between developing and publishing a national policy or program and implementing policies and programs at the state and local levels. We recognize that there are no “prescribed” answers to emergency management and tailor our efforts to meet the specific needs of clients. We are proud of our track record—particularly of helping clients build the capability to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters and emergencies.



Mitigation

Our past mitigation projects include performing hazard vulnerability assessments, conducting benefit/cost analyses, developing mitigation strategies and alternatives, and writing state, local, and university mitigation plans. We have performed mitigation projects for:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Massachusetts, Mississippi, and South Dakota
- Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, North Carolina
- California State University, the Colleges of the Fenway, and the University of Virginia; Disaster Resistant Universities
- Santa Barbara School Districts, California
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, Richmond, Virginia
- Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

“The outreach and public participation process was one of the best that we have ever seen in a [disaster resistant university] plan.”

- Richard Thibedeau, FEMA Region I

Preparedness

We have worked with many clients to examine their program development needs and to devise plans to build capability and capacity. We frame our approach to meet our clients’ goals with cost-effective and efficient strategies, such as development of templates, guidance documents, and other job aids. We have supported the development of all types of emergency management plans to include:

- Emergency Operations Plans
- Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government plans
- Shelter and evacuation plans
- Functional and special needs emergency plans
- Family assistance center plans
- Animal shelter plans
- Debris management plans
- Community recovery plans

Our preparedness services also include developing and conducting training and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant exercises. Over 70% of our core exercise staff are HSEEP certified instructors.

“Based on my personal observations and the comments of the evaluators and observers, the exercise was a huge success . . . The experiences and lessons learned will make Fairfax County better prepared and further ensure the safety of our residents.”

- Anthony Griffin, County Executive, Fairfax County, VA

Response and Recovery

Our experience in response and recovery operations spans management support in FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center and Joint Field Operations Offices, to on-the-ground assessments of disaster damages, cost estimating, debris operations, environmental studies and surveys, and floodplain management recommendations. We have provided technical assistance to FEMA’s Public Assistance Program since the early 1980s and have responded to more than 350 disasters in 49 states and all U.S. Territories, managing over 1,100 disaster assistance tasks. We have provided our expertise for operations related to:

- Midwest Floods (2008)
- Hurricane Ike (2008)
- California Wildfires (2007)
- Hurricane Katrina (2005)
- Hurricane Season of 2004
- Columbia Shuttle Response (2003)
- Cerro Grande Wildfires (2002)
- World Trade Center Attacks (2001)
- Oklahoma City Bombing (1995)
- Northridge Earthquake (1994)
- The Great Floods of 1993
- Hurricane Andrew (1992)
- Loma Prieta Earthquake (1989)

For more information, contact:

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