



# **Rapid Needs Assessment**

## **Unit 2 - Planning**



**FEMA**



# Objectives

At the end of this unit participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose of a Rapid Needs Assessment
- Describe the starting point for planning for a Rapid Needs Assessment





# Importance

Why is a Rapid  
Needs Assessment  
important?



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# Importance

**The ability of local governments to perform a Rapid Needs Assessment accurately and within the first few hours after an incident or emergency is critical to providing a response designed to save lives and support life sustaining actions.**



# Benefits

Rapid Needs Assessments provide:

- Effective life-saving and life-sustaining measures
- Tools for response prioritization
- Effective resource requests
- Disaster Public Information





# Requirements

To be effective, Rapid Needs Assessments must be:

- Planned
- Effectively and rapidly initiated
- Effectively analyzed and prioritized





# Coordination and Involvement

Planning and response involves participation from:

- Law Enforcement
- Fire, EMS, Hospitals and medical providers
- Public Works
- Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
- Emergency Management Agencies



# Assessment

Assessment *must* focus on:

- Issues directly related to life-saving or life-sustaining needs
- On areas that are known to be problematic
- Data collection on information that is essential for analysis







# Remember

Prioritization is a *must*

- You *must* understand what is important to assess
- You *must* understand the cause and effect relationship of what you are assessing
- The assessment *must* look beyond the obvious





# Starting Point

- Review the hazard analysis
- Review the risk analysis
- Determine vulnerability
- Determine effects
- Determine consequences



# History

- Does the hazard analysis identify areas more likely to be impacted?
- Have past events impacted some areas more than others?





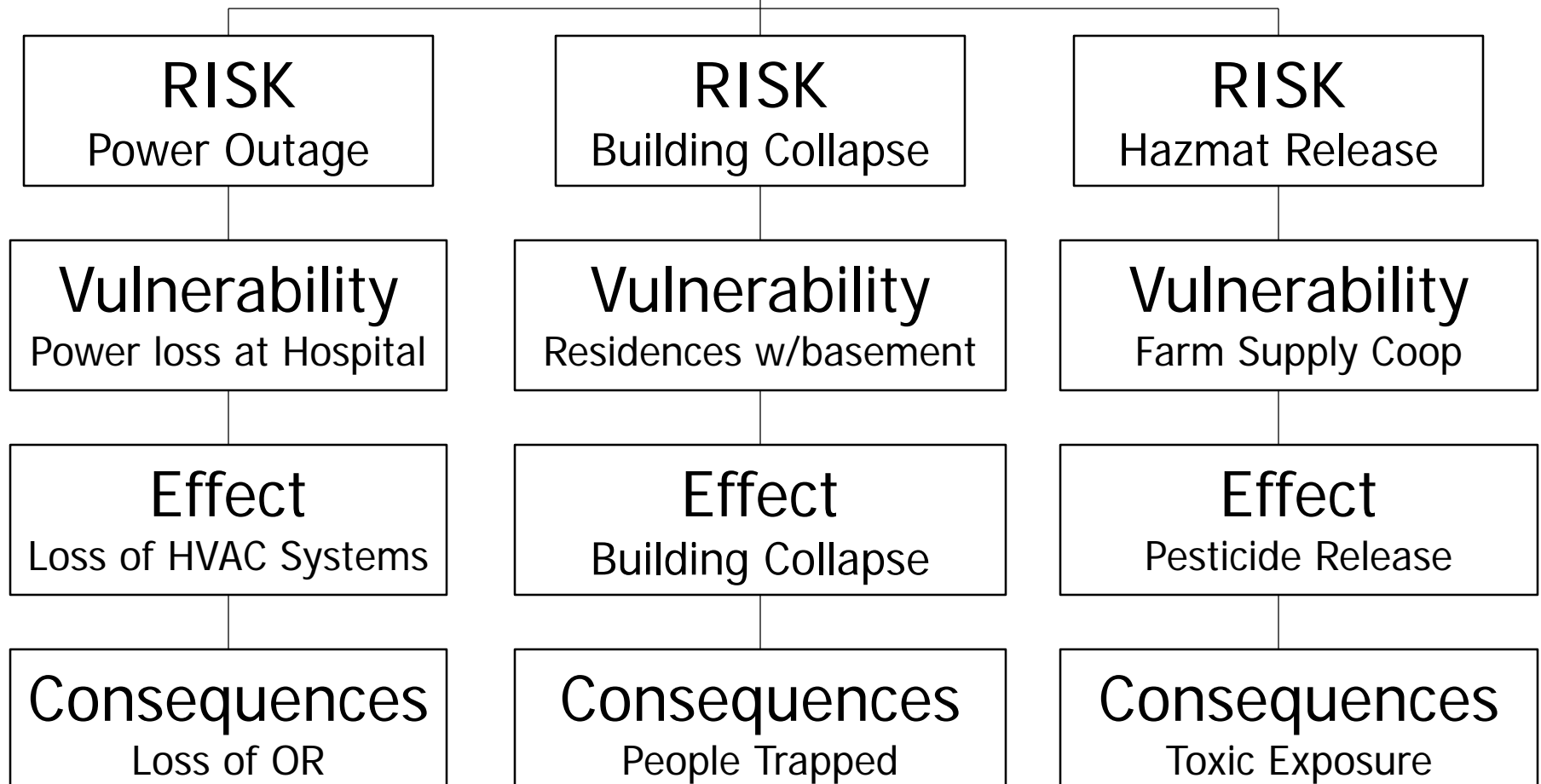
# Planning and Resources

Reviewing the Hazard Analysis for the community can help set priorities and resource needs for the rapid needs assessment



# HAZARDS

## High Winds, Tornado



# Hazards (High Winds, Tornado) Description

This is a schematic diagram of the process. In this case, the hazard is high winds or a tornado. The currently identified risks are: Power Outage, Building Collapse, and Hazmat release. Let's look at the power outage risk. One of the vulnerabilities identified is a power loss at the hospital. Through research, you find that while the hospital has a generator to provide service in the event of a power loss, the Heating, Ventilation, Air Condition system is not on the generator due to the large amount of power it would consume. This is fairly typical of most hospitals. So in the event of a power loss even if the generator is running, the effect of the power outage would be the loss of HVAC systems. The loss of an HVAC system has both immediate and delayed effects on a facility. If the HVAC system is not restored in about 36 hours during summer, the facility will become uninhabitable due to high temperatures. But a more immediate concern is what does the loss of the HVAC do *now*. The loss of an HVAC system in a hospital may have the immediate effect of shutting down surgical operations as ventilation is essential for climate and infection control in operating suites. In a disaster where there are many critically injured people, this could have devastating results. Therefore, if this community has a disaster that includes a power loss at the local hospital, an initial needs assessment should be made to determine what critical services have been lost at the facility due to the power loss. Other complications at the hospital may include the loss of advanced medical imaging, such as CAT scans and MRI's which are heavy power consumers that a frequently not on emergency generator circuits.



# Group Activity 1

- Form groups of 3–5 people
- Pick a spokesperson for the group
- Using the next visual as an example discuss a **FLOOD** Hazard and identify at least three Risks associated with a flood
- Be prepared to report your findings to the class
- You have 15 minutes for this activity



# HAZARD Flood

RISK

Vulnerability

Effect

Consequences

RISK

Vulnerability

Effect

Consequences

RISK

Vulnerability

Effect

Consequences







# Group Activity 1

# Report Out

# Time!



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# Review

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