

Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Hazard analysis and risk assessment answers the fundamental question that fuels the emergency planning process: "What would happen if a hazard event occurred in your community?"

Hazard analysis and risk assessment (HARA) is the process of measuring the potential loss of life, personal injury, economic injury, and property damage resulting from hazards by assessing:

- Historical occurrence of the hazard in the jurisdiction;
- Probability of the hazard's occurring again in the jurisdiction;
- Vulnerability of the people to the hazard;
- Geographic extent of the hazard;
- Severity of the impacts to the community; and
- Speed of onset or warning time prior to the occurrence of the hazard.

Risk assessment provides the foundation for the rest of the emergency planning process. The HARA process focuses your attention on areas most in need by evaluating which populations and facilities are most vulnerable to hazards and to what extent injuries and damages may occur. It tells you:

- The hazards to which your community is susceptible;
- What these hazards can do to physical, social, and economic assets;
- Which areas are most vulnerable to damage from these hazards; and
- The resulting cost of damages or costs avoided through future mitigation projects.

In addition to mitigation planning, hazard analysis and risk assessment information also allows emergency management personnel to establish early response priorities by identifying potential hazards and vulnerable assets.

For more information about hazard analysis and risk assessment, contact your County Emergency Management Coordinator, or the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division at (515) 725-3231.