



**DARS**

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES**

## Area Agency on Aging Template

### Risk Assessment for All-Hazards Emergency Response Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan

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Agency Name

Effective October 1, 2025

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## 1. Definitions:

*Hazard:* A hazard is an act or phenomenon that has the potential to produce harm or other undesirable consequences to a person or thing. Hazards exist with or without the presence of people and land development. Earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other geological and meteorological events have been occurring for a very long time, and the natural environment adapted to their impacts. Hazard identification is the process of identifying hazards that threaten a given area.

*Vulnerability:* Vulnerability is susceptibility to physical injury, harm, damage, or economic loss. It depends on an asset's construction, contents, and economic value of its functions. Vulnerability assessment provides the extent of injury and damages that may result from a hazard event of a given intensity in a given area.

*Exposure:* Exposure is the people, property, systems, or functions that could be lost to a hazard. Generally, exposure includes what lies in the area the hazard could affect.

*Risk:* Risk depends on all three factors: hazard, vulnerability, and exposure. Risk is the estimated impact that a hazard would have on people, services, facilities and structures in a community. It refers to the likelihood of a hazard event resulting in an adverse condition that causes injury or damage.

## 2. Scope:

A risk assessment for an All-Hazards Emergency Response Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) should encompass a comprehensive evaluation of potential risks across various categories, including natural disasters, health emergencies, operational failures, security threats, and client-related issues, with a focus on identifying vulnerabilities specific to the elderly population served by the AAA and implementing mitigation strategies to minimize potential harm.

## 3. Key Considerations:

**Client-centered approach:** Prioritize client safety and well-being throughout the risk assessment process.

**Community collaboration:** Partner with local emergency management agencies, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to coordinate response efforts.

**Regular review and updates:** Continuously monitor risk factors and update the risk assessment plan as necessary to reflect changing conditions and emerging threats.

## 4. Focus Areas:

### a. Natural Disasters:

**Weather-related:** Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, extreme heat, snowstorms, wildfires - assess potential impact on transportation, access to essential services, power outages, and client evacuation needs.

**Seismic activity:** Earthquakes - evaluate building structural integrity, potential for damage to communication systems, and emergency response preparedness.

### b. Health Emergencies:

**Infectious disease outbreaks:** Pandemic influenza, COVID-19 - assess potential for rapid spread among vulnerable elderly clients, staff shortages, and access to medical supplies.

**Mass casualty events:** Active shooter situations, chemical spills - plan for client evacuation, staff training in emergency response, and coordination with local emergency services.

### c. Operational Failures:

**Technology disruptions:** Power outages, server failure - evaluate backup systems, data security, ransom ware, cyber-attacks, and contingency plans for critical operations.

**Staffing shortages:** Unexpected absences due to illness or emergencies - assess staffing levels, cross-training procedures, and options for temporary replacements.

**Transportation issues:** Vehicle breakdowns, driver shortages - analyze transportation routes, backup plans, and client communication strategies.

### d. Security Threats:

**Cybersecurity breaches:** Data breaches, ransomware attacks - assess data protection measures, system backups, and incident response protocols.

**Fraud and abuse:** Client exploitation, financial scams - implement safeguards, staff training, and reporting mechanisms to identify and prevent abuse.

### e. Client-Related Issues:

**Medical emergencies:** Heart attacks, strokes, falls - evaluate emergency response procedures, staff training in first aid and CPR, and client monitoring systems.

**Behavioral health concerns:** Agitation, dementia-related behaviors - assess staff training in de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention protocols, and access to mental health services.

**Social isolation:** Lack of support networks, loneliness - identify strategies to maintain client connections, provide social activities, and monitor for potential isolation risks.

## 5. Risk Assessment Process:

### a. Identify Hazards:

Conduct a comprehensive review of potential threats across all categories, considering local risks and specific AAA operations. **Identify those threats below:**

**b. Assess Vulnerability:**

Analyze and list below the potential impact of each hazard on clients, staff, and critical infrastructure, taking into account the unique vulnerabilities of the elderly population.

**c. Evaluate Likelihood:**

Determine the probability of each hazard occurring based on historical data, expert analysis, and environmental factors. **Complete Attachment A identifying the type of hazard, frequency, population impact, and property impact.**

**d. Calculate Risk Level:**

Combine the severity of potential impact with the likelihood of occurrence to prioritize risks. **List the top 10 risks identified in Attachment A below based on highest risk to lowest risk:**

<b>1.</b>	
<b>2.</b>	
<b>3.</b>	
<b>4.</b>	
<b>5.</b>	
<b>6.</b>	
<b>7.</b>	
<b>8.</b>	
<b>9.</b>	
<b>10.</b>	

**e. Develop Mitigation Strategies:**

Create detailed plans to address identified risks, including preventive measures, emergency response procedures, and communication protocols. **List the plans below:**



## ATTACHMENT A

**Hazard Mitigation in the Planning and Service Area:** Based on your knowledge of the PSA, complete the following table to determine what hazards might be considered in the risk assessment.

Type of Hazard	Frequency: Times in the last			Population Impact			Property Impact		
	5 yrs	10 yrs	20 yrs	High	Med	Low	High	Med	Low
Aircraft Accident									
Avalanche									
Civil Disorder									
Coastal Storm									
Communication (disruption)									
Dam Failure									
Drought									
Earthquake									
Extreme Heat									
Flood (rapid snow melt, ice jam, heavy rain)									
Hail									
HAZMAT (fixed facility, transportation)									
Hurricane									
Landslide (earthquake including rain-induced)									
Lightning									
National Emergency									
Utility Interruption (communication, electricity, natural gas)									

<b>Type of Hazard</b>	<b>Frequency: Times in the last</b>			<b>Population Impact</b>			<b>Property Impact</b>		
Subsidence (sinkhole)									
Thunderstorm (microburst)									
Tornado (microburst)									
Transportation (air, rail, interstate, primary highway, county/city roads, military missile)									
Urban Fire (conflagration)									
Volcanic Ash									
Volcanic Explosion									
Wildland Fire (urban interface, public land, private land)									
Winter Storm (snow, ice, extreme cold)									
Chemical									
Biological									
Explosion									
Arson									
Release									