



DARS

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

Area Agency on Aging Template

All-Hazards Emergency Response Plan

Agency Name

Effective October 1, 2025

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1. Purpose:

An "all-hazards emergency response plan" for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) is a comprehensive plan designed to address a wide range of potential emergencies, from natural disasters like hurricanes or floods to man-made incidents like power outages or active shooter situations, with a specific focus on protecting the vulnerable senior population served by the AAA. By developing a comprehensive all-hazards emergency response plan, AAAs can effectively protect the well-being of their senior clients during a variety of emergency situations.

2. Scope:

To work with the aging network to facilitate the development and implementation of emergency and disaster preparedness and response plans for older adults based on risk assessments.

3. Federal Authority:

45 CFR 1321.97, Area agencies on aging shall establish emergency plans. Such plans must include the area agency's continuity of operations plan, and an all-hazards emergency response plan based on completed risk assessments for all hazards and updated annually, a description of coordination activities for both development and implementation of long-range emergency and disaster preparedness plans, and other information as deemed appropriate by the area agency on aging. The area agency on aging shall coordinate with Federal, local, and State emergency response agencies, service providers, relief organizations, local and State governments, and any other entities that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery, as well as with Tribal emergency management, as appropriate.

4. At Risk Demographic Population:

The facts demonstrate that the older population is much more vulnerable before, during, and after disasters and emergency situations. One aspect that the older population can add into emergency preparedness is that they have probably been through at least one disaster in their lifetime. The area agencies on aging and the organizations that coordinate emergency protocols should rely on the population to give guidance of best practices that have proved crucial to this planning process.

In the box below, provide overall demographics of those individuals in your planning and service areas. Information may include the total population 60+, number residing in rural areas 60+, individuals living alone 60+, and other data points for planning purposes.

5. Planning and Coordination:

a. Emergency Response Team:

AAA must establish a dedicated emergency response team with designated roles and responsibilities, including staff from the AAA, local emergency management agencies, healthcare providers, and community partners. **List those individuals, applicable entity, and roles and responsibilities:**

b. Communication Plan:

AAA must develop clear communication protocols to ensure timely information sharing among staff, senior clients, caregivers, and emergency responders, including designated contact numbers, emergency alert systems, and accessible communication methods. **Itemize the communication protocols below:**

c. Evacuation and Shelter Plan:

AAA must create detailed evacuation plans for different scenarios, including designated safe locations, transportation arrangements, and procedures for assisting seniors with mobility needs. **List this information below:**

d. Special Needs Registry:

AAA must maintain a registry of senior clients with specific needs (e.g., medical conditions, language barriers, assistive devices) to tailor response efforts accordingly. **Provide this location where these contents are housed below:**

e. Accessibility:

AAA must ensure all communication methods, plans, and materials are accessible to older adults with varying levels of abilities. **Explain how this will be detailed:**

f. Cultural Sensitivity:

AAA must tailor the plan to address the unique needs of diverse older populations. **Explain how this will be done below:**

6. Response Actions:

a. Immediate Response:

Outline immediate actions to be taken upon identification of an emergency, including activating the emergency response team, notifying relevant stakeholders, and initiating emergency communication protocols.

b. Client Welfare Checks:

Develop procedures for contacting and checking on the well-being of senior clients during an emergency, including utilizing volunteer networks and community outreach. **List these procedures in the box below:**

c. Medical Support:

Establish arrangements with healthcare providers to ensure access to medical care for seniors during an emergency, including transportation to healthcare facilities. **List the provider names, locations, and contact details below. Include any formal agreements as an attachment to this plan.**

d. Food and Water Distribution:

Plan for the distribution of food and water supplies to seniors, considering accessibility and special dietary needs. **Explain the process and procedures below:**

7. Recovery and Mitigation:

a. Post-Event Assessment:

Conduct a thorough review of the emergency response, identifying areas for improvement and documenting lessons learned. **Document this information below:**

b. Community Outreach:

Engage with senior communities to provide information about emergency preparedness, including training sessions on disaster response plans and personal emergency kits. **Detail the process below:**

c. Partnerships:

Coordinate with local, state, and federal emergency response agencies, service providers, relief organizations, local and state governments and any other entities that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery, as well as with Tribal emergency management, as appropriate. **Document the entities and contact information below:**