

A Gap Analysis of the City of Dunedin's Disaster Plan
and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's
Guidelines for Disaster Recovery

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Abstract

The problem was that the City of Dunedin's disaster plan had not been updated to reflect current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines for disaster recovery. The purpose of this research was to determine what changes could have been made to Dunedin's disaster plan to better align it with FEMA disaster recovery guidelines. This evaluative research was intended to analyze and compare FEMA publications, State and local guidelines, and current best practices to the City of Dunedin's disaster plan. Areas where the City's plan could be improved were recommended for consideration.

The following questions were answered to gather the data necessary to conduct a gap analysis between FEMA requirements for receiving disaster recovery aid and the City of Dunedin's disaster plan:

- a.) What publications has the Federal Government produced that provide guidance to local governments seeking to improve their ability to recover from a disaster?
- b.) What documentation is required by FEMA in order to receive Federal Aid following a disaster?
- c.) What have other municipalities done to comply with FEMA disaster recovery directives and guidelines?
- d.) How does Dunedin's disaster recovery preparedness compare to the guidelines as described in the FEMA literature and current research?
- e.) How can the City of Dunedin comply with FEMA requirements in the immediate post-disaster phase of recovery?

A survey was conducted of Dunedin's municipal employees to establish the current level of employee knowledge about the city's emergency plan. Prior research was reviewed and relevant sections included in the literature review for analysis in the

discussion section. Another survey was conducted nationally to determine personnel preparedness of other fire service organizations so that it could be compared to the results of Dunedin's preparedness. Results indicated that Dunedin employees lacked a familiarity with FEMA procedures, training in disaster recovery, and a cohesive plan for resource utilization. Recommendations were made for the development of a critical infrastructure identification plan, capabilities assessment, and documentation procedures as part of a revamped City of Dunedin disaster plan.

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Introduction.....	6
Background and Significance.....	8
Literature Review.....	10
Procedures.....	27
Results.....	30
Discussion.....	38
Recommendations.....	43
Reference List.....	47
Appendix A Unit Activity Log.....	52
Appendix B Initial Damage Assessment Form.....	53
Appendix C Preliminary Damage Assessment Form.....	54
Appendix D Capabilities Assessment Checklist.....	55
Appendix E Dunedin Fire Department SOP 600-5A.....	64
Appendix F Dunedin Employee Preparedness Survey.....	69
Appendix G National Fire Service Preparedness Survey.....	71
Appendix H Initial Damage Assessment Form Examples.....	74
Appendix I Dunedin's Current Emergency Plan.....	80