
Re-entry

Unit Six

Unit Objectives



- List factors that affect re-entry into the evacuated area.



- Develop a plan for evacuees to return home.

Discussion Questions

Authority for Re-entry



In your community, who has the authority to allow re-entry into the evacuated area?



What information about the evacuated area must be available to officials before re-entry operations are started?

Legal Issues

- Negligence is the principle type of liability that faces local governments when conducting re-entry operations.
- The Re-entry Plan and operation must minimize the danger and properly warn those who may be entering potentially unsafe areas.



Re-entry Operations

- Emergency managers and other community officials determine what resources are needed and are available to devote to the re-entry operation.



Re-entry Operations

Resources Needed

- Initially, resources may be devoted to more detailed damage assessment.
- Cleanup and repairs may be needed prior to re-entry.
- Adequate numbers of emergency response personnel, vehicles and equipment must be available to respond to accidents.

Re-entry Operations

Resources Needed

- Traffic control may require substantial manpower resources if transportation routes are damaged/detoured.
- Ongoing security of the evacuated area will require additional law enforcement resources.



Re-entry Operations



- Each evacuation will create a different set of re-entry requirements.
- A successful Re-entry Plan must be flexible enough to take into account post-disaster conditions, size and population of the evacuated area, and availability of resources.

Phased Re-entry

Example: Palm Beach, Florida

- Palm Beach County and Florida Atlantic University's Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems developed a plan to ensure safe and timely re-entry.
- The Concept of Operation in Palm Beach County's Re-entry Plan outlines a phased approach.

Phased Re-entry

- Pre-Activation Phase: County officials inform evacuated residents about re-entry requirements
- Response Phase:
 - Law enforcement sets up roadblocks and checkpoints at critical locations
 - Law enforcement activates special road monitoring teams to manage traffic on regional evacuation routes
 - Officials decide if curfews are necessary

Phased Re-entry

- Actual re-entry is divided into two levels of priority:
 - **Level I access:** agencies and groups that participate in restoring normal operations after disaster (Search and Rescue, Infrastructure and Utilities Repair, Official Damage Assessment Teams)
 - **Level II access:** other critical groups (relief agencies, healthcare agencies, and insurance agents, business operators, residents)

Re-entry Procedures

- If full-scale re-entry is impossible, schedule additional re-entry phases so residents or business owners can re-enter at specified times for a fixed number of hours.
- Establish identification procedures (e.g., require driver's license or company identification).
 - Decide what will be admitted as back-up (e.g., utility bills, deeds, property tax documents, car registration).

Re-entry Procedures

- Issue passes at locations other than checkpoints (e.g., shelters) to reduce bottlenecks at control points.
 - Set up area to verify credentials for people with questionable identification.

Re-entry Procedures

- Set up roadblocks, as necessary, to prevent mass entry of the population into impacted areas and keep rescue routes cleared.
- Have emergency response personnel and equipment in the re-entered area ready and able to respond even when utilities may not be available.

Other Possible Re-entry Issues

- Serious traffic jams; disabled vehicles
- Injuries in the evacuated area and no operational hospital in the jurisdiction
- Sightseers
- Looting concerns
- Residents in areas not yet authorized for re-entry

Other Possible Re-entry Issues

- Hysterical residents seeing damaged and destroyed homes; psychological trauma
- Contaminated water; utility hazards
- Displaced and disoriented wild animals or livestock in residential areas
- Discovery of bodies (human or otherwise) in damaged structures
- Pets without owners; injured pets

Discussion Questions



Do you know of any other issues or concerns that have affected re-entry operations?



What planning partners would you want involved in developing re-entry policies and plans?

Unit Summary

Re-entry Items in Evacuation Annex

- Assess the damages and hazards.
- Decide on full-scale or phased re-entry.
- Establish a re-entry schedule.
- Establish a method for identifying authorized vehicles and individuals.
- Establish control points.

Unit Summary

Re-entry Items in Evacuation Annex

- Arrange public transportation, if needed.
- Provide emergency response personnel and equipment in the re-entered area.
- Plan and carry out a public information strategy.
- Control traffic.
- Provide security.