Identifying Threats and Hazards The Plan Should Address

The threat to schools comes from a wide range of hazards. How schools respond to threats will depend on their unique circumstances and the threats they may face. Examples of types of threats and hazards that may impact school safety include:

- Natural Disasters: earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, storms, etc.
- Human-Made Incidents: suicides, acts of terrorism, bomb threats, etc.
- Accidental Release of Hazardous Materials: gas leaks, laboratory spills, etc.
- Security Incidents: violent attacks, theft, vandalism, etc.
- Technological Incidents: power outages, loss of utilities, cyber attacks, etc.

School-Level Plan: Key Elements

Many schools have a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (SCEOP) that includes a plan for responding to emergencies. These plans should:

- Establish a School Crisis Response Team (SCRT) to coordinate efforts within the school community.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of all school personnel.
- Establish lines of communication and notification protocols.
- Develop contingency plans for alternative school locations.
- Conduct regular training and drills to ensure proficiency.
- Review and update the plan regularly.

The plan should include:

- A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to identify and prioritize strategies for reducing the impact of hazards.
- A Risk Management Plan (RMP) to identify and prioritize strategies for reducing the risk of hazards.
- A Communication Plan to ensure timely and accurate communication.
- A Training and Exercise Plan to ensure all school personnel are trained and prepared.
- A Decontamination Plan to ensure the safety of all school personnel.

Schools should ensure that their SCEOP is tested and updated regularly to ensure that it remains effective.

Resources

- National Center for Education Statistics
- U.S. Department of Education
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Center for Education Statistics

Contact Information

For more information, please contact NEA Health Information Network (NEA HIN) at info@neahin.org or visit www.neahin.org.