

# Pandemic Natural Disaster Prep

This playbook outlines crucial steps for preparing and responding to natural disasters during a pandemic, considering additional health and safety protocols. It emphasizes the integration of pandemic precautions with traditional disaster response measures.

## Step 1: **Risk Assessment**

Assess the risk level of the natural disaster in conjunction with pandemic considerations, including the likelihood of the disaster, the season, and potential public health impacts.

## Step 2: **Resource Inventory**

Compile an inventory of resources, such as personnel, equipment, and supplies, that will be required to respond to the natural disaster and manage pandemic conditions simultaneously.

## Step 3: **Safety Protocols**

Update safety protocols to include pandemic-related measures such as social distancing, mask-wearing, and hygiene practices within evacuation centers and emergency response teams.

## Step 4: **Communication Plan**

Develop a clear communication plan that informs the public and emergency responders about the natural disaster and pandemic

safety measures, ensuring the information is accessible and easy to understand.

## **Step 5: Evacuation Planning**

Plan for evacuation scenarios that account for pandemic conditions, including the identification of additional shelters to avoid overcrowding and the establishment of isolation areas for those who are sick.

## **Step 6: Training and Drills**

Conduct training sessions and drills for emergency responders and the public that simulate disaster response during a pandemic to ensure everyone is prepared for the dual threat.

## **Step 7: Response Coordination**

Coordinate with local health departments, disaster relief organizations, and other agencies to ensure a unified response effort that addresses both the natural disaster and the ongoing pandemic.

## **Step 8: Monitoring and Adaptation**

Monitor the situation closely, adapting strategies as needed in response to changes in the natural disaster's progression or pandemic conditions and following guidance from health authorities.

# **General Notes**

## **Legal Compliance**

Ensure that all pandemic-related disaster response plans comply with local, state, and federal public health laws and guidelines to avoid legal repercussions.

## **Mental Health Support**

Consider the mental health impact of both the natural disaster and the pandemic on the affected population, providing access to mental health resources and support services.

## **Continuous Learning**

After the event, review the response to identify successes and areas for improvement, updating policies and procedures to enhance future pandemic disaster responses.