

The Planning Process: Phase Five

Design of plan format and evaluation

Most important in the design of a format, is that it be practical. It should reflect the plan's purpose and uses.

- Content

The plan format should outline specific actions and make assignments for their implementation. These actions can be grouped into functions corresponding to the general program categories developed in Phase Four.

- Implementation

The plan format should be designed to allow for an organized implementation process. Actions identified will be numerous and varied but should provide a base from which to set priorities.

- Evaluation

The plan is dynamic, therefore on-going evaluation should continue throughout the implementation process.

The full scope of an earthquake disaster reaches through society and across all political boundaries. The process outlined here was developed to provide a course of action to begin organized preparation for a regional disaster.

For the benefit of all people in an area, widespread cooperation and planning are necessary if we are to reduce our exposure to hazards.

Review the information contained within, then consider how your community would benefit from a coordinated approach to emergency planning.

For more information, please visit our web site at: <http://www.cusec.org>

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The Planning Process

*Organized preparation for
regional disaster planning.*



The Planning Process

Millions of people in the central U.S. are faced with the threat of a damaging earthquake striking at any moment.

Damage caused by large earthquakes and other hazards affects all elements of society and government. It requires mobilization and coordination of all state and local government departments to distribute and use whatever resources are available after the event. In both direct and indirect effects, an earthquake can be the greatest hazard a community faces.

A thorough, written plan, developed with participation of government officials, volunteer agencies, and the private sector is necessary to achieve the coordination needed to cope with the effects of a great earthquake.

Bringing the community together to plan for an earthquake often begins to show the need for better planning for other hazards.

The goal should be to make our communities more disaster resistant.

The Planning Process: Phase One

Hazard identification and risk assessment

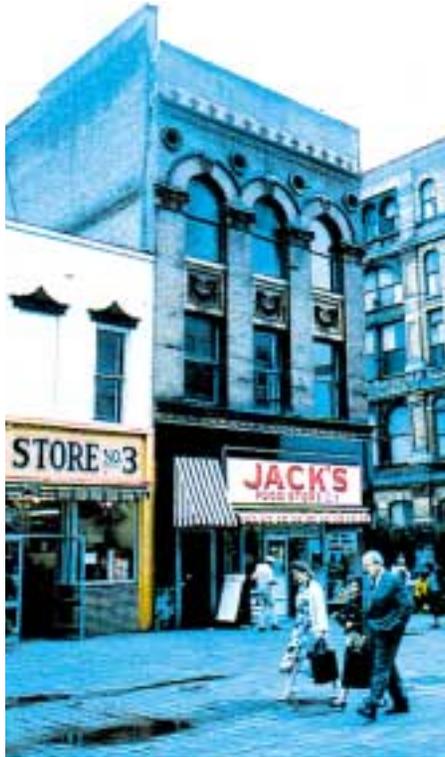
The planning process begins with an identification of the hazard, in this case the earthquake hazard, facing the community. This identification may include:

- Mapping of the hazard
- Recurrence probability
- Potential induced effects (*ground shaking, landslides, liquefaction, etc.*)

Assessment risk, based on the identified hazard, is essential. The assessment may include projections of potential:

- Structural damage
- Casualties and injuries
- Dam inundation
- Hazardous material spills
- Homeless caseloads
- Fires, etc.

The results will be a highly useful database for setting policy and scenario development for planning purposes.



The Planning Process: Phase Two

Development of seismic safety goals and policies

Based on the database development in Phase I, community policy, in response to potential scenarios, should be stated as a set of goals and objectives to guide the rest of the planning process. Goals should reflect a desired state of preparedness, and objectives should provide concrete steps to reach these goals.

Example:

Goal: Maintain a comprehensive public information program promoting preparedness measures in the home to safeguard the family.

Objectives:

1. Create a public information network for earthquake preparedness
2. Develop regional programs to motivate preparedness activities
3. Develop a system to measure the level of public preparedness

The Planning Process: Phase Three

Design potential mitigation and preparedness strategies

The application of seismic safety goals and objectives of the community should consider social, economic, and political constraints.

- Prime consideration:
Measures that could save the greatest number of lives and reduce risks in a feasible, cost effective manner.
- Strategies:
Strategies for land use, emergency operation procedures, structural design criteria, and similar measures are developed in this phase of the planning process.

The Planning Process: Phase Four:

Program development

Effective applications of mitigation and preparedness strategies depends upon the development of inter-related and integrated seismic safety with other hazards. Programs involving a cross-sector of society increase the disaster resistance of the community.

These programs can include:

- Determining the spatial distribution of risk
- Guiding future land use
- Upgrading the construction process
- Preparing emergency operations and recovery procedures
- Conducting tests and exercises.

Because these programs are interrelated, they should be pursued logically and sequentially. To do this, the community should consider a long term approach, 10–15 years.