



Prepared People Save Lives – Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Toolkit

ODP Announcement 25-108

AUDIENCE:

All Interested Stakeholders

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to introduce the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to assist providers with assessing and preparing for unexpected events to ensure the individuals they are supporting remain safe and continue to receive the services they need in the event of an emergency.

DISCUSSION:

September was National Preparedness Month, but emergencies can happen at any time. the **Prepared People Save Lives Toolkit** is a crucial step in service providers being better prepared to respond to an unexpected event. This “best practice” is a smart choice that protects people, saves money, and helps your organization stay safe and trustworthy. The goal is to make sure individuals stay safe and services can keep going even during unexpected events.

The [Prepared People Save Lives Toolkit](#) was reviewed by the ODP Emergency Planning and Continuity Workgroup to support providers with an emergency planning best practice. The best practice **Prepared People Save Lives Toolkit** is now available for download and use. It contains the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) tool, a



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roadmap for implementation, emergency planning resources, and instructions on how to use the tool: [Prepared People Save Lives Toolkit](#)

The HVA will:

- Identify and rank different hazards (natural disasters, technology failures, human-caused dangers);
- Look at how vulnerable the program is and figure out what needs improvement through planning factors;
- Allow for continuous process improvement annually, making services resilient, and more prepared for emergencies.

This toolkit reinforces our shared commitment to year-round readiness—not just during National Preparedness Month in September. Leaders in residential habilitation and day services should focus on disaster preparedness every day, because it keeps people safe, avoids big financial problems, and builds trust. The HVA is an important step in any organization’s emergency operations planning and it opens a dialog with partners at all levels.

Let’s continue building a more resilient future for those we serve—their families, our providers, our staff and our communities—by staying proactive, informed, and connected.

Please direct your emergency planning questions about the **Prepared People Save Lives Toolkit** to ra-pwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov and stay safe!