COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS | THIRA & SPR

Benefits of Conducting a Threat and Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA)

A risk assessment is the process of identifying hazards, profiling hazard events, taking inventory of assets, and estimating losses. It also includes the process of quantifying and characterizing the threats to humans, property, and the environment. Whether you are a community, county, regional authority, or a state, understanding risk, especially as it relates to natural and manmade hazards, is a critical element of any emergency management program.

National Preparedness Goal and Core Capabilities

The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States. It also identifies 32 distinct core capabilities organized in five mission areas: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The mission areas and core capabilities organize the community-wide activities and tasks performed before, during, and after disasters into a framework for achieving the goal of a secure and resilient nation.
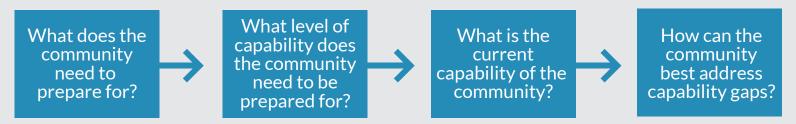
Benefits of a THIRA

Developing a THIRA helps public safety officials determine the specific level of capability necessary to best address a community's hazard and threat risk. These community-specific capability levels are what communities use to determine their current level of capability, identify their capability gaps, and identify how they can close those gaps. The outputs of the THIRA/SPR provide communities a foundation to prioritize decisions, close gaps in capability, support continuous improvement processes, and drive the other National Preparedness System components.

ABOUT US

Integrated Solutions Consulting is a professional services firm focused on developing and implementing comprehensive crisis and consequence management solutions. We are a team of innovative problem solvers that combine experience and evidence-based knowledge to deliver practical, best practice results across multiple industries to make communities safer and more resilient.

The THIRA process helps communities define:

What does the community need to prepare for?	→	What level of capability does the community need to be prepared for?	→	What is the current capability of the community?	→	How can the community best address capability gaps?

Involving Stakeholders and Subject Matter Specialists

It is commonly recognized that preparedness is a shared responsibility in every community. Involving stakeholders and the input of subject matter specialists during the Stakeholder Preparedness Review process will provide valuable input and perspectives on a community's true capabilities, as well as build consensus and support to address capability gaps.

TheTHIRA Process

Developing a THIRA involves a series of self-assessments conducted by stakeholders and subject matter specialists that are presented in the following three-step process:

1 | **Identify Threats & Hazards**
List of threats and hazards of concern

2 | **Give Threats & Hazards Context**
Context descriptions and impact numbers

3 | **Establish Capability Targets**
Capability targets based on standardized target language

Controlling for Accuracy and Reliability

When conducting risk assessment through self-assessments, it is important to recognize that perception of the threat and hazard risk, the consequences, and capabilities are often influenced by the assessor's personal experience and perspectives. Bias and agenda setting could also skew the accuracy of the results. To ensure accuracy and reliability of the THIRA process, the self-assessment must involve a proven process and established methodology that provides adequate rigor to control for uninformed subjectivity.

Integrating the THIRA with Other Community Plans and Assessments

The THIRA process provides a useful tool for public safety professionals to assess capabilities and identify gaps. However, when the THIRA process builds upon other community assessments developed under the purview of other planning efforts, such as hazard mitigation planning, the results can become even more insightful and provide a fundamental component of a community's comprehensive emergency management program.

Miami-Dade County, FL: Community Vulnerability Risk Analysis & THIRA/SPR Integration

Integrated Solutions Consulting assisted Miami-Dade County as they embarked on a project to develop a countywide, comprehensive and objective risk assessment and vulnerability analysis. The goal was to provide a solid baseline understanding of the risks faced throughout the county as well as a shared awareness of the County's existing capabilities and resource gaps. The ultimate purpose of the THIRA was to provide a holistic understanding of Miami-Dade activities and investments toward managing a range of potential threats and hazards.

This project resulted in the development of a sophisticated, research-based community vulnerability and hazard risk analysis of the County. The Community Vulnerability, Risk and Resilience (CVR2) assessment system was supported by a rigorous methodological process that incorporates over 4,500 community indicators and scientifically-based measurements of community vulnerability, capability, and hazard risk analysis. This systematic risk assessment process was used to develop a comprehensive community vulnerability and all hazard risk assessment that is considered the most reliable and accurate hazard risk assessment in the nation.

The information from the CVR2 was used as a baseline reference for Miami-Dade County to develop a THIRA/SPR that was consistent and compliant with DHS' CPG 201 guidance. The THIRA/SPR process involved input from community stakeholder and subject matter experts through a series of interviews, surveys, and focus group sessions that involved inclusive community participation practices that allow for consensus building, information exchange, social proof, and an environment that fosters ongoing collaboration and shared situational awareness.

Contact **ISC** today to learn more.

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