

What is it?

Ability to respond

Emergencies can happen at any time and can directly impact shelter residents and staff to varying degrees. This can include situations like hurricanes, intruders, tornadoes, mental health emergencies of clients or staff, and loss of heat in the middle of winter.

Why is it important?

Continuity of services

Disasters may lead to an influx of individuals seeking support from domestic violence programs as incidents of domestic violence tend to escalate during and immediately following disasters. Having a clear emergency preparedness plan with delineated responsibilities and action steps is critical for the agency's ability to provide continuous services.

Is this required?

Yes!

Professional Standards #3: Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies will adhere to sound management practices that demonstrate operational stability, including organizational principles and practices that reflect accountability and transparency. Written protocol for staff that includes instructions for responding to a medical emergency, a mental health emergency, and an emergency that threatens the safety of staff and/or the individuals being served by the staff.

How do we make it happen?

Through relationships and planning

Agency has written emergency preparedness plans and staff are trained on protocols. Develop working relationships with local emergency planning departments, emergency responders in the area, and participate in the Community Emergency Response Team (if available). Create emergency plans in multiple