

Summary of the Standard on Accessible Emergency Measures

Purpose and vision

The purpose of this standard on Accessible Emergency Measures is to:

- reduce the impact of emergencies on people with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals; and
- strengthen the ability of communities to recover after an event.

Like all of Accessibility Standards Canada's standards, it seeks to create a Canada without barriers by 2040. It also supports:

- our [mandate](#); and
- the goals of the [Accessible Canada Act](#).

We follow the principle of universal accessibility in this standard to ensure no one is left behind. The standard envisions communities that are:

- accessible;
- barrier-free;
- inclusive; and
- resilient.

It aligns with the philosophy of “Nothing without us.” This means that people with disabilities are involved in decisions that affect them.

Background

This is the first version of the standard. Accessibility Standards Canada's Technical Committee on Emergency Measures developed it. It will align with other applicable standards.

Key concepts

This standard contains requirements and recommendations. These will help organizations and communities identify ways to protect:

- people with disabilities; and
- others who may be at greater risk during emergencies.

The standard is made up of a framework with 4 mutually dependent functions:

- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery
- Mitigation

Key requirements

The standard provides guidance on the following:

- **General considerations.** This refers to the key components of emergency management programs.
- **Pre-planning.** This involves:
 - identifying people with disabilities and others who may be vulnerable in an emergency;
 - identifying types of vulnerabilities;
 - determining how the individuals identified can assist others; and
 - establishing information-sharing processes.
- **Program planning.** This refers to the process for planning how to manage emergencies to ensure continuity of operations. It details how the emergency program will be evaluated, implemented, and maintained.
- **Hazard identification, risk assessment, prevention, and mitigation.** This refers to identifying and monitoring potential hazards, threats, and vulnerabilities. It includes analyzing risks and measuring the impact of incidents arising from an identified hazard or threat.
- **Implementation.** This includes communication activities, warnings, and incident management plans. Their purpose is to control and coordinate the response to an emergency. They also support continuity and recovery.
- **Post-incident response and mitigation.** This involves gathering information on types of vulnerabilities and demographic data. It helps identify who needs what kinds of support and at what times. This will help vulnerable people recover from an emergency. Post-incident response activities should also include assessing the impact of the emergency and creating a recovery plan.