



Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Exercise Planning

Why is the THIRA important to exercise planning?

The THIRA process helps communities understand its normal set of risks. By identifying and prioritizing those threats, a community can develop a more effective emergency operations plan. Emergency management personnel can manage risks through capabilities-based planning, mitigation strategies and development of [core capabilities](#) via training and exercise.

How can the THIRA help with exercise planning?

The THIRA plays an important part in exercise planning by identifying the threats and hazards of greatest concern for a jurisdiction. Part of the THIRA process is giving context to the threats — a scenario that shows how the threat could impact the jurisdiction in different conditions (time of day, locations, weather conditions, etc.).

Emergency management personnel can use the context of the threats to develop scenarios (and potential impacts) for any type of exercise, both discussion-based and operations-based. Information from the THIRA helps pose these questions:

- What actions (core capabilities) need to happen to deal with that impact?
- How can the exercise test the jurisdictions' ability to do those actions?
- How can the exercise help determine if the jurisdiction has the **P**lanning, **O**rganization (people), **E**quipment, **T**raining and **E**xercise (POETE elements) to carry out the mission areas (prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, recover) in an emergency?

These questions help direct exercise planning to the jurisdiction's specific risks. The exercise may support a jurisdiction's strengths and expose gaps in the POETE elements listed above, as well as test its core capabilities in dealing with the threats and hazards of greatest concern.

The next phases of the THIRA also help emergency management personnel identify strengths and gaps in the POETE elements. This process can help emergency management personnel plan training and exercise to build on strengths and close gaps.

Where can I find more information on the THIRA?

Visit HSEM's [THIRA page](#) or access THIRA source documents:

- [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 201](#)
- [The National Preparedness Goal](#)
- [Presidential Policy Directive 8](#)

Request Assistance

If you don't find what you're looking for, please send us an [Exercise Request for Assistance](#) form and we will be happy to help.