

# R<sup>3</sup> Report | Requirement Rationale Reference

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Published for Joint Commission-accredited organizations and interested health care professionals, R3 Report provides the rationale and references that The Joint Commission employs in the development of new requirements. While the standards manuals also may provide a rationale, R3 Report goes into more depth. The references provide the evidence that supports the requirement. R3 Report may be reproduced if credited to The Joint Commission. Sign up for [email delivery](#).



## Requirement

**Standard EM.12.01.01:** The laboratory develops an emergency operations plan (EOP) based on a hazards approach.

**Note:** The laboratory considers its prioritized hazards identified as part of its hazard vulnerability analysis when developing an emergency operations plan.

If the laboratory is part of a Joint Commission accredited organization (such as a hospital, critical access hospital, or ambulatory care organization), this requirement is not applicable. However, the laboratory must demonstrate how it collaborates with the organization's emergency management leadership on any laboratory specific needs.

## Rationale

A well developed all-hazards emergency operations plan (EOP) guides the laboratory when responding to and recovering from a variety of emergency or disaster incidents. The EOP provides a management structure for the

## References\*

- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2015, June; modified April 2019). A practical guide to dealing with laboratory floods  
[https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS\\_PracticalGuideFloods\\_62015.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS_PracticalGuideFloods_62015.pdf)
- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2016, November; modified April 2019). Clinical laboratory preparedness and response guide.  
[https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/WORK\\_BlueBook.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/WORK_BlueBook.pdf)
- x Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. (2014, December; reviewed September 2019). GP36-A: Planning for laboratory operations during a disaster; approved guideline. <https://www.clsi.org/>
- x EisBrenner, T., Tipples, G., Kuschak, T., & Gilmour, M. (2020, October 1). Laboratory response checklist for infectious disease outbreaks preparedness and response considerations for emerging threats. *Communicable Disease Report* 46(10), 311–321. <https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v46i10a01>
- x Gschwender, A. & Gillard, L. (2017, October). Disaster preparedness in the blood bank. *American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science* 30(4), 250–257. <https://doi.org/10.29074/ascls.30.4.250>
- x Ready.gov. (2023, September 7). Ready business. <https://www.ready.gov/business>

\*Not a complete literature review.

## Requirement

**Standard EM.12.02.03:** The laboratory has a staffing plan for managing all staff and volunteers during an emergency or disaster incident.

**Note:** The laboratory considers its prioritized hazards identified as part of its hazard vulnerability analysis when developing a staffing plan.

If the laboratory is part of a Joint Commission accredited organization (such as a hospital, critical access hospital, or ambulatory care organization), this requirement is not applicable. However, the laboratory must demonstrate how it collaborates with the organization's emergency management leader(s) any laboratory specific needs.

## Rationale

The laboratory's staffing plan should be activated in response to an emergency or disaster incident if the laboratory





If the laboratory is part of a Joint Commission accredited organization (such as a hospital, critical access hospital, or ambulatory care organization), this requirement is not applicable. However, the laboratory must demonstrate how it collaborates with the organization's emergency management leader(s) on any laboratory-specific needs.

### Rationale

Emergencies and disaster incidents can have a detrimental impact on the laboratory's utility system(s), including loss of one or more utility systems. The list of utility systems that could potentially fail during an emergency includes heating, ventilation and air conditioning; network connectivity; and refrigeration equipment. The laboratory must be prepared with alternate ways for providing essential or critical systems to maintain functional operations if it will continue to provide services during an emergency or disaster incident.

### References\*

- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2015, June; modified April 2019). A practical guide to dealing with laboratory floods  
[https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS\\_PracticalGuideFloods\\_62015.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS_PracticalGuideFloods_62015.pdf)
- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2016, November; modified April 2019). Clinical laboratory preparedness and response guide.  
[https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/WORK\\_BlueBook.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/WORK_BlueBook.pdf)
- x Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. (2014, December; reviewed September 2019). GP36-A: Planning for laboratory operations during a disaster; approved guideline  
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<https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v46i10a01>
- x Gschwender, A. & Gillard, L. (2017, October). Disaster preparedness in the laboratory





for a safe and effective response in the event of a real emergency or disaster incident. These exercises are used to test all facets of the emergency operation plan and should be comprehensive enough to test the laboratory's response capabilities to failure in order to identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.

### References\*

- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2015, June; modified April 2019). A practical guide to dealing with laboratory floods  
[https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS\\_PracticalGuideFloods\\_62015.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS_PracticalGuideFloods_62015.pdf)
- x Association of Public Health Laboratories (2016, November; modified April 2019). Clinical laboratory preparedness and response guide  
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- x Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. (2014, December; reviewed September 2019). GP36A: Planning for laboratory operations during a disaster; approved guideline  
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- x Gschwender, A. & Gillard, L. (2017, October). Disaster Preparedness in the Blood Bank. *American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science*, 30(4), 250–257. <https://doi.org/10.29074/ascls.30.4.250>
- x Ready.gov. (2023, September 7). Ready business  
<https://www.ready.gov/business>

\*Not a complete literature review.

### Requirement

**Standard EM.17.01.01:** The laboratory evaluates and revises its emergency operations plan.

A special thanks to the following contributors: