

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor: [REDACTED]
Requestor Phone:
Requestor Email:
Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 1 May 2018
Type of TTA Request: Standard

Request:

[REDACTED] requested resources/ articles related to mitigating loss/continuity of operations in laboratories, to include articles discussing loss during a disaster.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team conducted research on laboratory COOP plans and templates, which are provided in the first section of this document (see the [ASPR TRACIE COOP Topic Collection](#)). The second section includes general laboratory preparedness and recovery resources. And the third section focuses on articles discussing lessons learned from clinical laboratories following a disaster.

I. Laboratory COOP Templates and Resources

Association of Public Health Laboratories. (2015). [A Practical Guide to Dealing with Laboratory Floods](#).

This document provides planning, response, and recovery actions for labs that have flooded.

Association of Public Health Laboratories. (2011). [Guidelines for the Public Health Laboratory Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\)](#).

This document provides a laboratory continuity of operations (COOP) plan, which is a comprehensive, pre-event plan that describes the procedures, policies, and arrangements necessary for a laboratory to respond quickly and effectively to a wide variety of possible disruptions or threats. It describes what is in place, what the laboratory does to respond, and what is required to maintain the COOP. Although developed for public health laboratories, it can be adapted for use by hospital laboratories.

Kendrick, N., and (Snippes) Vagnone, P. (2011). [Continuity of Operations in the Clinical Laboratory](#). Minnesota Department of Health.

This presentation provides an overview and key components of continuity of operations (COOP) planning in the clinical laboratory setting. It also includes various scenarios to consider when developing COOP plans.

Sambol, T. (2006). [Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\): Preparing for the Unknown. APHL 2006 Annual Meeting](#). Association of Public Health Laboratories.

This presentation was given at the Association of Public Health Laboratories 2006 Annual Meeting. Although outdated and specific to state public health laboratories, it provides key concepts and considerations related to continuity of operations planning that may be adapted for use.

Yale Emergency Management. (n.d.). [Business Continuity Planning Guide for Laboratories](#). (Accessed 5/18/18.)

This document provides an overview of key continuity of operations issues faced by the laboratory community. It is designed to aid Principal Investigators in considering the additional protection and steps that should be taken to protect laboratory personnel and the other functions being conducted. Although many of the elements are common to academic teaching and support departments, some are highly specific to laboratories, and their successful preparedness requires specialized emergency resources and planning.

II. Additional Resources – General Laboratory Preparedness Resources

AABB. (2008). [Disaster Operations Handbook: Coordinating the Nation's Blood Supply During Disasters and Biological Events. \(Version 2.\)](#).

This handbook was created to help blood centers, hospital blood banks, and transfusion services plan for natural and human-caused disasters that can affect the blood supply. It can help the appropriate officials determine the medical need for blood, effectively transport it from one facility to another, and communicate internally and externally about the status of the blood supply.

American Society for Microbiology. (n.d.). [Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols for Suspected Biological Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases](#).

This page provides guidelines from ASM and CDC on various topics such as anthrax, Bioterrorism readiness plan, smallpox, etc.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. (2014). [GP36-A: Planning for Laboratory Operations During a Disaster; Approved Guideline](#).

This planning template provides laboratory emergency preparedness guidelines for planning, response, and recovery phases. It includes sections on developing an emergency operations plan, understanding important lab and hospital functions during an emergency, functions that affect lab operations during an emergency, roles/responsibilities, and implementing the plan. There are also a few sample checklists, templates, and exercise forms available as Appendices.

National Research Council Committee on Prudent Practices in the laboratory. (2011). [Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards: Updated Version.](#)

Chapter 3 on Emergency Planning includes information on consequences of different types of emergencies on laboratory operations. It discusses preplanning, leadership and priorities, essential personnel, communications, evacuations, shelter in place, loss of power, building closure, and fire loss.

Stony Brook University. (n.d.). [Laboratory Emergency Plan.](#)

This page includes an overview of what a laboratory plan should include along with templates and checklists for hurricane and fire safety.

III. Laboratory Disaster Response Lessons Learned

Bloom, S. (n.d.). [Disaster Preparedness, Business Continuity, and Recovery: Lessons Learned from Sandy.](#) NYU Langone Medical Center.

This presentation provides an overview of the planning and lessons learned from research laboratories affected by Superstorm Sandy.

National Academy of Sciences. (2017). [Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of the Academic Biomedical Research Community: Protecting the Nation's Investment.](#) National Academies Press.

Chapter 6 of this document focuses on response and recovery planning. Laboratories are mentioned in a few areas of this section to include case studies on laboratory resilience assessments, essential functions, and short term and long term expectations.

Scungio, D. (2014). [Disaster and the laboratory: preparation, response, and recovery.](#) Medical Laboratory Observer.

This article provides case studies of disasters and how they have affected clinical labs. It outlines some of the guidelines available to help with plan development and response lessons learned.

Taylor, K., George, P. Deely, J. (2014). [Laboratory Turnaround Times in Response to an Abrupt Increase in Specimen Testing After a Natural Disaster.](#) *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*, Volume 142, Issue 1.

This article discusses the key indicators that change during extreme circumstances that could help laboratories maintain standards when responding to a disaster. It includes a case study of laboratories during/after an earthquake.