ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

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

Request:

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


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


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.


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.

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 Although outdated and specific to state public health laboratories, it provides key concepts and considerations related to continuity of operations planning that may be adapted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.


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


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.

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


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


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.


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.


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.