

Attachment 6: Essential Elements of Information

The following essential elements of information present an overview of impact-related information needed to expedite the decision-making process. These essential elements of information mainly represent information elements about "what" happened and do not address any response elements of information, whether by Red Cross or any other agency. The essential elements of information in the left and middle columns are broken down into fifteen "high-level" categories, although they stand alone as information elements. The more detailed information outlined in the "Specific Information Required" column provides the most valuable intelligence. The remaining column offers ideas about obtaining specific information.

Essential Elements of Information	Specific Information Required (Detailed)	Potential Sources	Essential Elements of Information	Specific Information Required (Detailed)	Potential Sources
Boundaries of disaster area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundaries and geographic locations sustaining damage Boundaries and geographic locations/areas of weather/hazard event General information on the terrain/topography of the affected areas Boundaries and populations evacuated Locations where sheltering was ordered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross chapters/staff and volunteers Local/state government officials FEMA/state Sit Reps News media Internet NWS/USGS/NIIC Post Office Geographical Information Systems (GIS) 	Hazard-specific information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of fire, flood, storm surge Location of epicenter Magnitude of earthquake Compare flood stage with current levels Compare river levels with dike/levee heights Potential for release of HAZMAT Potential for land slides/mudslides Potential for dam/levee failures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/state government officials Local chapter (s) FEMA/State Sit Reps ESFs USGS NWS/ NIIC USACE Forest Service Tsunami Warning Center NOC
Socio-economic/ political impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of homes affected Population affected Prevalence of basements Status of local government operations Special need population affected Dispersal of affected population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/state government officials FEMA/State Sit Reps News media Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Fire department 	Status of critical facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of medical facilities (hospitals, nursing homes) Status of schools, other public buildings Status of fire and police facilities Status of dams and levees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/State Government officials FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF 5) News media/ Internet USGS/ USACE NWS
Jurisdictional boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of jurisdictions affected (cities/towns, counties, states, chapters, tribes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Planning Commissions Local/state Government officials Local/county engineer FOCIS data Post Office 	Status of natural gas service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of gas service Areas with disrupted service Restoration time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/state government officials Gas companies FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF 12,5)
Status of transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of area airports, highways, roads, bridges, railroads, ports, evacuation routes, public transit, pipelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF1) Local/state government officials (DOT) Transportation authority Local chapter 	Weather and environmental concerns/issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather forecast Storm tracks/paths Evacuation information Disease/health information Extreme temperatures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS/ Weather Channel Chapters River Forecast Center Health department CDC
Status of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of telecommunications service/ TV, radio, cable Area of disrupted service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF2) Local/state government officials Local chapter 	Historical information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous events affected same area FIRM/Q3 data What were the results/ critical issues What were the community needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters Local/state government officials After-action reports Situation Reports FEMA/State EMA
Status of power/electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of electrical power generation and distribution Areas with disrupted power Restoration time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility companies Local/state government officials FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF 12, 5) Local chapter 	Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of impacted areas Demographic breakdown of income levels Number/type housing units in impacted areas Prevalence of basements Level and prevalence of insurance coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Chapters Internet Local/state government officials US Census Insurance agencies
Status of water and sewer systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of potable and non-potable water and distribution systems Areas with disruptions Restoration time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water companies Local/state government officials Public works FEMA/State Sit Reps (ESF 3,5) 	Hazardous, toxic and radiological issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of reported or suspected hazardous material/toxic release incidents Verification of incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local/state government officials FEMA/State Sit Reps ESF 10/EPA Health department LEPC/NRC
Status of emergency operations centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of local/state EOCs Has JFO been established Existence of DRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government liaison Local/state government officials FEMA regional offices/RRCC 			