

**2022 - 2023 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis
and Jurisdictional Risk Assessment**



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Data Collection and Collaboration Process

In late December 2022, the Big Bend Healthcare Coalition (BBHCC) began the collection of data from its collective partners to create this document, a combination Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) and Jurisdictional Risk Assessment (JRA). Each county's Emergency Management Director and Department of Health Planner was asked to complete an extensive hazard risk survey that detailed severity and risk for natural, infrastructure, technological, human, and hazardous materials related disasters that could affect the region. These results were compiled, and the results can be found in [Appendix E](#).

The next step taken to collect data for the HVA and JRA was to create and disseminate a survey to the general membership, which includes, but is not limited to, the federally-designated core members of the BBHCC - Public Health, Emergency Management, Hospitals, and Emergency Medical Services. This survey was broken down into two sections; the first section asked the participant to rank likeness and level of impact for select threats to the region, and the second section requested participants to rank various capability gaps they felt existed in the region. These results were compiled, and the complete results can be found in [Appendix D](#).

In addition to these surveys, BBHCC staff used information obtained from various Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans, Local Mitigation Strategies, and the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (2021) to complete this document.

The Florida Public Health Risk Assessment Tool

BBHCC staff obtained a copy of each county's Public Health Risk Assessment Tool (PHRAT) for the region to further inform the HVA and the JRA. The top risks according to the PHRAT Hazard Risk Indices for the region are as follows:

- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms
- Storm Surge
- Extreme Heat
- Extreme Cold
- Wildfires

The highest rated, and most often identified county capabilities gaps are as follows:

- Volunteer Management
- Fatality Management
- Mass Care Coordination
- Community Preparedness
- Responder Safety and Health
- Public Health Laboratory Testing
- Medical Surge Capability
- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological investigation

The most significant resource readiness gaps identified are as follows:

- Storm Surge
- Nuclear Attack
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Seasonal Influenza
- Radiological Incidents – Fixed Facility

Full results can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Department of Health and Human Services emPower

“Over 2.5 million Medicare beneficiaries rely on electricity-dependent medical equipment, such as ventilators, to live independently in their homes. Severe weather and other emergencies, especially those with long power outages, can be life-threatening for these individuals.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) emPOWER Map is updated monthly and displays the total number of at-risk electricity-dependent Medicare beneficiaries in a geographic area, down to the ZIP Code.

The DHHS emPOWER Map gives every public health official, emergency manager, hospital, first responder, electric company, and community member the power to discover the electricity-dependent Medicare population in their state, territory, county, and ZIP Code. When combined with real-time severe weather and hazard maps, communities can easily anticipate and plan for the needs of this population during an emergency.”¹

To annually inform BBHCC members, staff retrieves de-identified data from the emPower database on those individuals within the region with electricity-dependent medical and assistive equipment. This information was obtained in January of 2023. The data can be viewed in [Appendix B](#).

Social Vulnerability Index

“Social vulnerability refers to the resilience of communities when confronted by external stresses on human health, stresses such as natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss. The Center for Disease Control’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) uses 15 U.S. census variables at tract level to help local officials identify communities that may need support in preparing for hazards; or recovering from disaster.”²

The SVI for the BBHCC Region was retrieved in January of 2023. Please see [Appendix C](#) for the detailed county maps.

¹ <https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/about-empowermap.html>

² <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

Member Surveys

In December of 2022, BBHCC sent a Hazard Risk probability and severity survey to all Emergency Management Directors and Florida Department of Health County Planners in the region. The following are the results for the total hazard specific relative risk for the agency/organization.

- Franklin County – 46%
- Gadsden County – 30%
- Gulf County – 54%
- Jefferson County – 49%
- Leon County – 27%
- Madison County – 17%
- Taylor County – 32%
- Wakulla County 36%

For additional information, please see the complete results in [Appendix E](#).

In April of 2021, the BBHCC sent out an additional survey to the general membership. This survey was broken down into two sections; the first section asked the participant to rank likeness and level of impact for select threats to the region, and the second section requested participants to rank various capability gaps they felt existed in the region. Please see the following for threats that were rated highest for both likeliness to occur and highest impact if it did occur:

- Cyber Attack Against Data
- Hurricane
- Pandemic
- Temperature Extremes
- Utility Disruption

The following were the most frequently rated large capability gaps in the region:

- Respond to Medical Surge
- Plan for and Coordinate Health Care Evacuation / Relocation
- Maintain Access to Non-Personnel Resources during Emergencies
- Plan for Continuity of Operations
- Protect Responders' Health and Safety

The following were the most frequently rated medium capability gaps in the region:

- Coordinate Response Strategy, Resources, and Communications
- Develop strategies to Protect Health Care Information System Networks
- Coordinate Health Care Delivery System Recovery
- Train and Prepare the Health and Medical Workforce

For additional information, please see general membership survey results in [Appendix D](#).

North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

In 2019 the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force (NFRDSTF) published the regional Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). This document is published every three years and is intended to; identify threats and hazards, give threats and hazards context, and establish capability targets. The threats the 2019 THIRA identified and focused on were:

- Explosive Devices
- Cyber Attack
- Hazardous Material Release – Chemical
- Hurricane/Typhoon

Annual Work Plan

The BBHCC will use the data collected in this document to tailor training, exercises, and plan development to meet the demands of the threats and capability gaps identified. In addition to these, the BBHCC will continue to host educational speakers to further enrich its membership such as the National Weather Service with Hurricane Preparedness, the Florida Department of Health for information regarding special needs sheltering, and representatives from the Centers for Independent Living to introduce their program.

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Training

Taking into consideration the various threats, hazards, and capability gaps in the region, the BBHCC will address these matters through continued training and exercises. The following trainings have been identified and already held, or will be held in the BBHCC region to address the member identified capability gaps:

CHD/HCC/Region	Core Capability Primary	Training Goal Gap/Issues	Frequency	Suggested Course	Course Provider	Outcome	Priority
HCC	PHEP: Emergency Operations Coordination	Increase emergency management capabilities of healthcare facilities	Initial	Healthcare Emergency Management	Other	Management	High
HCC	HPP: Medical Surge	Increase ED capability to triage and treat an overwhelming number of patients	Initial	ED response to a No Notice Mass Casualty Event	Other	Performance	Medium
HCC	HPP: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination	Build stronger ICS Capabilities in a nursing home setting during emergencies	Refresher	Nursing Home ICS	Other	Performance	Medium
HCC	HPP: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination	Build stronger ICS Capabilities in a hospital setting during emergencies	Refresher	Hospital ICS	Other	Performance	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Emergency Operations Coordination	Increases decision making capabilities in response to a crisis or emergency	Initial	MGT 340 Crisis Leadership and Decision Making	TEEX	Management	High
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Educate local healthcare providers and officials of healthcare threats	Initial	Active Threats in Healthcare	Other	Awareness	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Community Recovery	Increase planning capabilities among healthcare facilities and officials	Initial	MGT 409 Community Healthcare Planning	NCBRT-LSU	Management	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Increase local healthcare officials ability to plan for special needs communities	Initial	MGT 403 Access and functional needs preparedness planning	Other	Performance	Medium
HCC	HPP: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery	Bring awareness to caregivers on how to prepare and respond to natural disasters	Initial	AWR 308 Natural Disaster Awareness for Caregivers	Other	Awareness	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Increase preparedness efforts amongs healthcare organizations for various disasters	Initial	AWR 342 Disaster Prep for Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations	TEEX	Management	Medium
HCC	HPP: Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness	Increase ICS Capabilities for all healthcare organizations within the region	Initial	ICS Training	Other	Awareness	Low

Exercises

Along with trainings, the BBHCC continues to hold various exercises to provide its members with opportunities to test plans, utilize new resources, and train new team members. The following exercise have been held or are in the planning phases for the BBHCC region:

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CHD/HCC/Region	Core Capability Primary	Exercise Goal	Type	Exercise Title	Exercise Delivery Method	Priority
HCC	PHEP: Emergency Operations Coordination	Provide an opportunity for healthcare organizations to review and exercise their emergency response plans in reference to an active shooter incident	Tabletop	CMS Active Shooter Tabletop for Healthcare Facilities	Regional	High
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Build off of the Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise and provide a full scale exercise for the Region to test its capabilities	Full-scale	Active Shooter Full Scale	Regional	Medium
HCC	HPP: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery	Evaluate ability of regional healthcare facilities to locate beds for patients due to an evacuation of a facility	Functional	Surge Tool Exercise	Local	High
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Provide opportunity for local healthcare facilities to begin creation of hurricane response plans	Workshop	Hurricane Response Plan Development Workshops	Regional	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Provide opportunity for local healthcare facilities to begin creation of evacuation plans	Workshop	Evacuation Response Plan Development Workshops	Regional	Medium
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Provide an opportunity for healthcare organizations to review and exercise their emergency response plans in reference to a major weather event	Tabletop	CMS Hurricane Response Tabletop for Healthcare Facilities	Regional	Medium
HCC	HPP: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery	Provide an opportunity for local healthcare facilities to begin reviewing their response plans for a cyber security incident	Drill	HCC Cyber Security No Notice Drill	Regional	Low
HCC	HPP: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery	Provide an opportunity for local healthcare facilities to begin reviewing their response plans various incidents	Drills	HCC No Notice Drill	Region	Low
HCC	PHEP: Community Preparedness	Provide an opportunity for healthcare organizations to review and exercise their emergency response plans in reference to an evacuation	Tabletop	CMS Evacuation Tabletop Exercise for Healthcare Facilities	Region	Medium

HVA and JRA Distribution Methods

The HVA and JRA is available to all interested at the BBHCC website <https://www.bigbendhcc.org/>. Members were informed of the document’s availability at the general membership meeting in March 2023.

HVA and JRA Development Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting Activity
12/21/22	Discuss Gen. Membership Survey Draft
12/28/22	Meeting to discuss Empower and SVI process
1/9/2023	Meeting to discuss Survey Results and EmPower/SVI Data
1/11/2023	HVA/JRA Draft Meeting
1/13/2023	HVA/JRA Final Draft Call