

Pre-Course Assignment

Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction

Welcome to the two-day “Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction” (BPCRR) course.

BPCRR will empower you with an understanding of nationally recognized principles that, when used appropriately, can lead to the development of effective and efficient community risk-reduction programs.

To be effective, community risk reduction must be conducted in a strategic manner. Through exploration of case studies, you will develop a thorough understanding of what constitutes strategic risk reduction.

The following strategies will be explored as part of the BPCRR course:

- Define what are considered industry “best practices” for the development, delivery, evaluation and sustainment of risk-reduction programs.
 - Explore risk-reduction programs that have proven successful to learn how:
 - Data was used to build a rationale for developing the program.
 - A risk assessment was used to identify and prioritize the root causes of the problem.
 - Potential target populations were identified.
 - A problem statement was developed.
 - Stakeholders were identified and engaged.
 - A sense of urgency was created for action to be taken.
 - Buy-in from the community was achieved.
 - An action/evaluation plan was developed to address the problem.
 - The program was deemed to be a cost-effective investment.
 - A strategy was created to sustain the program over the long term.
 - Evaluation was used to monitor the development, outreach, impact and long-term outcome of the program.
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The BPCRR course includes four units of instruction.

- Unit 1: Describing Strategic Community Risk Reduction. Students will be able to describe strategic community risk reduction.
- Unit 2: Assessing Community Risk. Students will be able to summarize how to assess risks within the community.
- Unit 3: Developing Intervention Strategies. Students will be able to propose intervention strategies to include in a program that addresses a specific risk issue.
- Unit 4: Resources. Students will be able to illustrate the value of investing resources into community risk reduction.

At the end of the course, you will be evaluated through a 25-question multiple choice examination. A final grade will be provided to you. The minimum score needed to pass the course is 70.

To prepare for attending the course, please take time to perform these simple actions:

1. Acknowledge that taking a strategic approach to fire prevention is **not** a new concept. Using a strategic approach to prevention has been mentioned in previous national fire protection plans dating back to 1913. In 2006, an ad hoc group of individuals and representatives from organizations with a history and shared mission focused on improving fire prevention efforts in the United States, initiated a project entitled Vision 20/20. These veteran fire service leaders recognized that although fire loss statistics in the U.S. had improved since the 1970s, progress had not equaled what was occurring in other industrialized nations.
2. Please visit the Vision 20/20 website located at <http://strategicfire.org/>.

Once arriving at the site, please explore the Home, and CRR Connect sections. Several short videos are available for review in the CRR Connect section. These videos are intended to assist in your understanding of community risk-reduction concepts, provide tools to help departments advocate for a balanced prevention program, and emphasize the importance of evaluating prevention programs. If you have more time, please look over the entire website, as it will be used extensively during your upcoming National Fire Academy (NFA) course.

3. Please visit Fire is Everyone's Fights located at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/fief/index.html>

Fire is Everyone's Fight is a national effort led by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to lower the number of home fires and home fire injuries in America. Along with USFA and partner organizations across the country, the fire community is speaking out with a unified message of fire prevention and safety to the public. The goal is to change how people think about fire and fire prevention, using social marketing strategies to address the broadest audience. The Fire is Everyone's Fight provides extensive support information/materials that are beneficial to fire and EMS risk reduction practitioners.

4. Next, consider three risks that are currently a problem in your community. You will select one to focus on while attending the BPCRR course.
5. Please consider a risk-reduction program or activity that your department currently delivers. Be prepared to discuss it with your peers as part of the NFA experience.

Thanks for your interest in furthering your education in fire prevention and community risk reduction. We look forward to your participation in the BPCRR course.
