

Overview of Emergency Preparedness Tools and Resources

Texas Supreme Court Task Force
on
Judicial Emergency Preparedness

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Presented by the Office of Court Administration



Select Resources – National

- [*Preparing for a Pandemic: An Emergency Response Benchbook and Operational Guidebook for State Court Judges and Administrators*](#) (2016, National Center for State Courts)
- [*Control Measures and Public Health Emergencies: A Texas Bench Book*](#) (2016, University of Houston Health Law and Policy Institute)
- [*CCJ/COSCA Court Security Handbook: Ten Essential Elements for Court Security and Emergency Preparedness*](#) (2010 & 2012, Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators)
- [*Template for Assessing Status Of COOP Planning: Louisiana District Courts*](#) (2010, American University, U.S. Dep't. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- [*Continuity of Court Operations: Steps for COOP Planning*](#) (2007 & 2010, National Center for State Courts, U.S. Dep't. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- [*Guidelines for Pandemic Emergency Preparedness Planning: A Road Map for Courts*](#) (2007, American University, U.S. Dep't. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- [*Position Paper on Emergency Preparedness in the State Courts*](#) (2006, Conference of State Court Administrators)
- [*Planning for Emergencies: Immediate Events and their Aftermath, A Guide for Local Courts*](#) (2005, American University, State Justice Institute)



Select Resources – State

- [*Status of COOP/Disaster Planning in Louisiana's District Courts: Accomplishments and Technical Assistance and Training Needs*](#) (2010, American University, U.S. Dep't. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance)
- Florida Court System: [Emergency Preparedness](#)
 - Administrative orders
 - Planning and plan templates
 - Links and resources



Key Take-Aways

- State-level leadership is important
- The role and needs of the courts should be acknowledged by state and local first responders
- Designation of authority and succession matters
- Legal issues and “mission critical” functions must be considered
- Resource constraints are real but need not be a barrier to planning
- Key plan elements
 - Interagency coordination
 - Communication protocols (internal and external)
 - Record preservation and rehabilitation
 - Evidence preservation
 - Problem-solving court issues
 - Human resource issues
 - Plan training and testing

