Compliance to Capability:

Emergency Planning for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)

ICF Task Force 2026 Meeting

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Why This Matters Now?



Being prepared - it's a smart choice that protects people, saves money, and helps your organization stay safe and trustworthy.

Everyday Lives and Prepared People.

The Value of Preparedness

Saves lives and protects essential services.

Minimizes recovery costs.

Meets regulatory compliance.

Builds public trust and reputation.

Emergency Planning Fundamentals (ICF Lens)

Unique to ICFs:

- Medically fragile / behaviorally complex individuals
- Dependence on staff for ADLs
- Transportation and evacuation complexity
- Continuity of care requirements

Core Planning Components

- Risk-based planning (not all-hazards in name only)
- Communications (redundancy is critical)
- Staffing contingencies
- Coordination with local EMA, hospitals, and utilities

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)

“What is most likely to hurt us—and how bad would it be?”

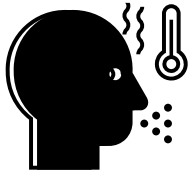


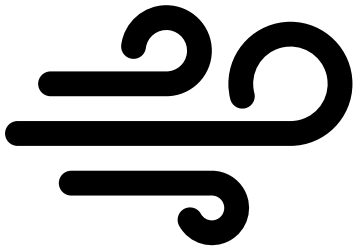
Key Hazard Categories



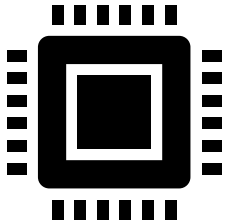
- Natural: flooding, winter storms, extreme heat/cold
- Technological: power failure, HVAC failure, water disruption
- Human-caused: violence, elopement, cyberattack
- Public health: respiratory outbreaks, staffing shortages











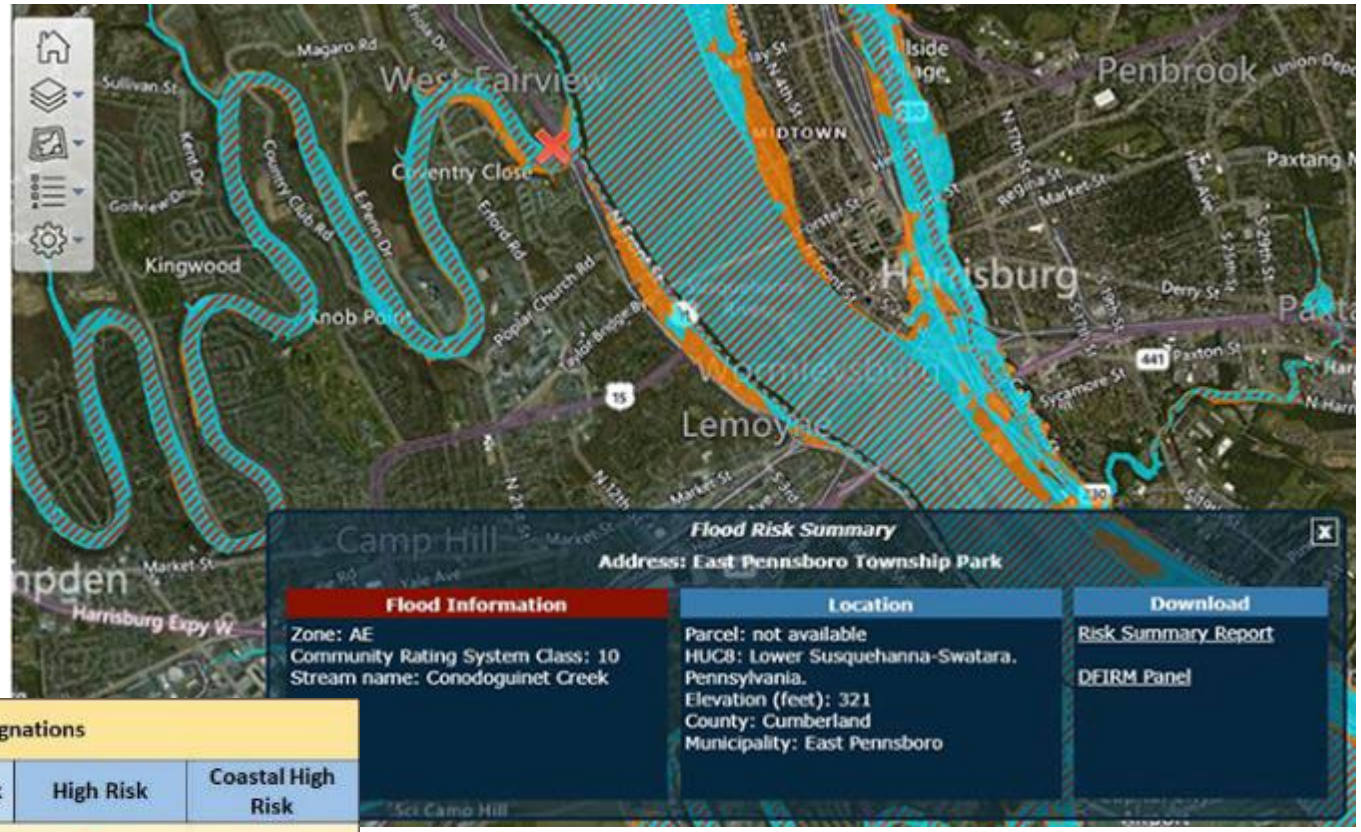


[Prepared People Save Lives – Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Toolkit ODP Announcement 25-108]

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Flood Risk and Hazard Assessment Tools

- **Pennsylvania Flood Risk Tool**
  - Developed by Penn State University with FEMA funding https://pafloodrisk.psu.edu/
  - Provides detailed flood risk information for specific areas
- **FEMA's Map Service Center**
  - Official repository of all flood maps



FEMA Flood Zone Designations				
Undetermined Risk	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Coastal High Risk
Increasing Risk →				
Zone D	Zones C and X (unshaded)	Zones B and X (shaded)	Zones A, AE, A1-30, AH, AO, A99	Zones V, VE, V1-30
	Non-Special Flood Hazard Area (NSFHA)		Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	

Business Impact Analysis (BIA)

Essential Functions

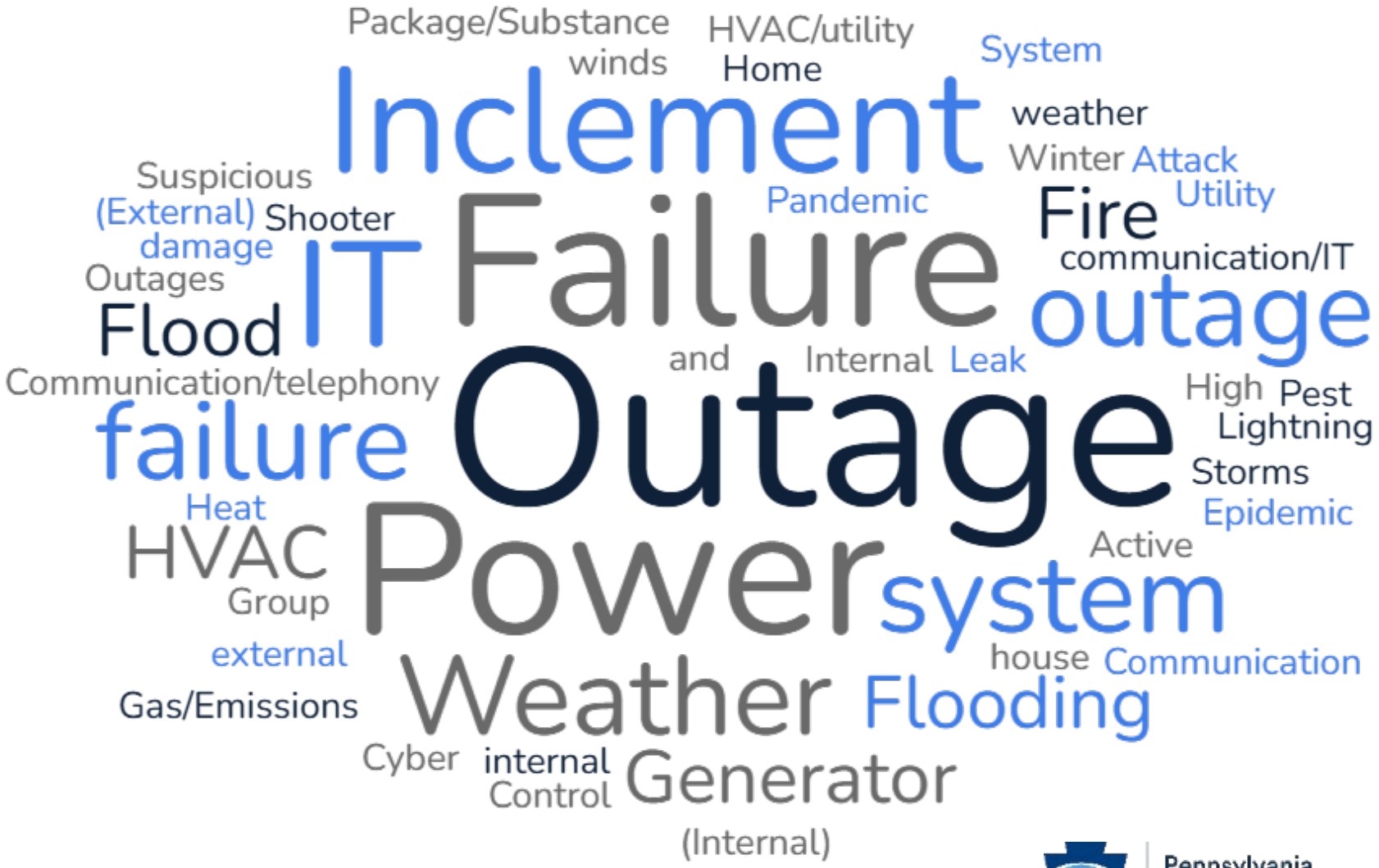
- Medication administration
- Staffing coverage (minimum ratios)
- Food service
- Behavioral supports
- Medical documentation access







Connecting HVA + BIA → Real Planning



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All Hazard/Business Impact/Continuity Option

Hazard	ASD/ID-specific risks	Practical options/strategies
Flooding (riverine/flash)	Rapid transitions; sensory overload; lost routines; medication/equipment loss	Pre-identify dry relocation sites; “go-bags” with meds/AAC/ID; visual social stories for evacuation; waterproof device cases; staff buddy assignments; MOUs with hotels/partners
Power outage	Loss of AAC charging; refrigeration; lifts/beds; increased anxiety after dark	Generators with tested load; generator quick connects with MOUs; battery banks/solar for AAC; cold-chain coolers; headlamps and blackout curtains; quiet spaces; backup paper communication boards
Severe winter weather	Shelter-in-place for 48–72 hours; staffing shortages; snow/ice injuries	3–7 days of food/water; staff sleep kits; medication reserves; indoor activity kits; snow/ice removal priority; telehealth backup
Extreme heat/poor air quality	Heat intolerance; seizure threshold; respiratory issues; outdoor program disruption	Cooling centers; portable AC/filters; hydration schedules; indoor programming plan; real-time air-quality triggers; heat illness protocol
Water disruption/internal pipe break	Hygiene and hydration barriers; infection risk; routine disruption	Potable water storage; hygiene kits; disposable supplies; temporary restroom access; visual schedules for altered routines

Planning For 2026 Large-Scale Events

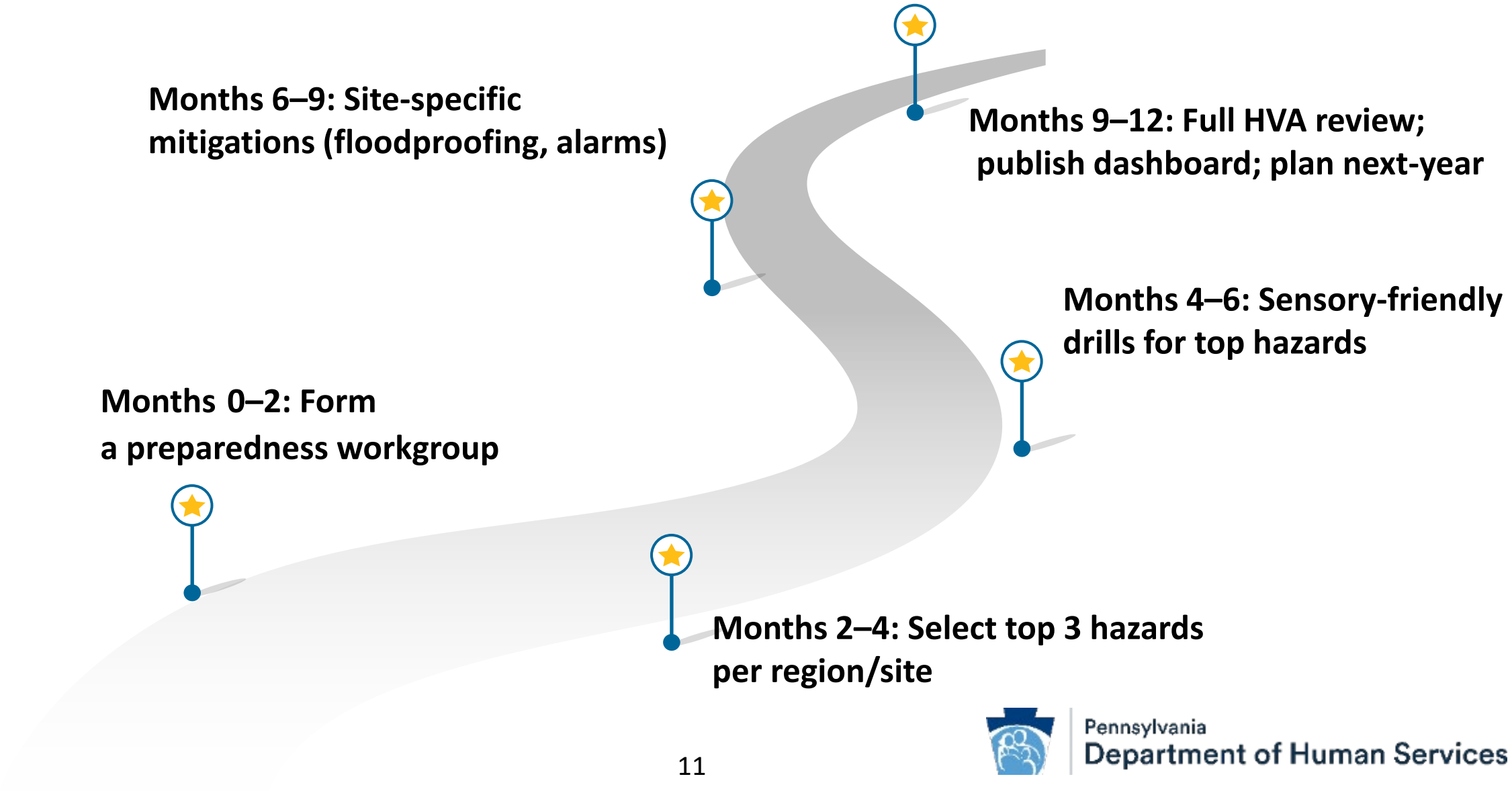
ODPANN 26-030 Sensory Friendly Preparedness For Large-scale Events

- **Even if facilities aren't directly hosting events, they *will feel the impact*.**
- **Major sporting events, festivals, national celebrations (e.g., FIFA World Cup 2026, America250)**
- **Understanding the Risk Environment,**
- **Core Planning Areas**



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Provider HVA Implementation Roadmap



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Moving the Whole Community Forward

- Continuous Process Improvement
  - Outreach/Communications
  - Peer Collaboration/Sharing resources
  - Continuity Discovery Sessions: Essential Functions/BIA
  - After Action Reports/Corrective Actions
  - Training/Follow-up/Check-ins
  - Table-tops/Drills/Exercises



TTX: Shelter in Place – Extended Power Outage & Flooding

Long-Term Care Facility for Individuals with IDD and Autism

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Exercise Objectives

- Assess hazard-specific risks and planning
- Review shelter-in-place protocols and behavioral supports
- Evaluate internal and external communication strategies
- Clarify staff roles and training under emergency conditions

Scenario Summary



A tropical storm has led to widespread flooding. Power is out.



The facility is operating on generator backup. Emergency response is delayed.



You must shelter in place for 48 hours.

Inject Timeline

1. Hour 1 – Generator noise upsets clients
2. Hour 3 – Cell service/internet weakens
3. Hour 6 – Behavioral escalation incident
4. Hour 12 – Medication delivery delayed
5. Hour 18 – Emergency mgmt extends shelter order

After-Action Review



What went well?



What gaps were discovered?



What policies need revision?

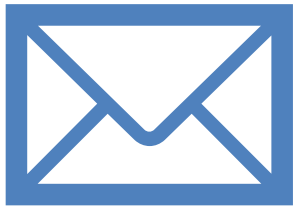


What staff training is required?

Thank you!



- Q&A Session



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