

Prepublication Requirements

• Issued June 19, 2020 •



Emergency Management Standard EM.03.01.03 Revisions

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit <http://www.jcrinc.com>.

Please note: Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS

Effective January 1, 2021

Emergency Management (EM) Chapter

EM.03.01.03

The laboratory evaluates the effectiveness of its Emergency Operations Plan.

Element(s) of Performance for EM.03.01.03

Key: **D** indicates that documentation is required;

R indicates an identified risk area;

4. As an emergency response exercise, the laboratory activates its Emergency Operations Plan twice a year at each site included in the plan; laboratories that are independent organizations (not owned by or affiliated with a health care organization, such as reference laboratories) are required to activate the plan only once each year.

--	--

Note 1: If the organization activates its Emergency Operations Plan in response to one or more actual emergencies, these emergencies can serve in place of emergency response exercises.

Note 2: Tabletop sessions, though useful, are not acceptable substitutes for these exercises.

Note 3: If the laboratory is part of a Joint Commission-accredited organization, the frequency of the emergency response exercise is based on the organizational plan. Because most laboratories accredited by The Joint Commission are in hospitals, they will follow the hospital requirement for two tests.

3. **The laboratory conducts an exercise to test the emergency plan at least annually. Every other year, the laboratory's annual exercise is selected from one of the following:**
- A full-scale, community-based exercise.
- When a community-based exercise is not possible, a facility-based, functional exercise.
- If the laboratory experiences an actual emergency (natural or man-made) that requires activation of the emergency plan, the laboratory is exempt from engaging in its next required full-scale, community-based exercise or facility-based, functional exercise following the onset of the emergency event.

	ⓓ
--	---

In the opposite year, the laboratory's annual exercise includes, but is not limited to, one of the following:

- A second full-scale, community-based exercise

- A second facility-based, functional exercise

- Mock disaster drill

- Tabletop exercise or workshop that is led by a facilitator and includes a group discussion using a narrated, clinically relevant emergency scenario and a set of problem statements, directed messages, or prepared questions designed to challenge an emergency plan

Note 1: See the Glossary for the definitions of community-based exercise, full-scale exercise, and functional exercise.

Note 2: If the laboratory is part of a Joint Commission-accredited organization, the frequency of the emergency response exercise is based on the organizational plan. Because most laboratories accredited by The Joint Commission are in hospitals, they will follow the hospital requirement for two tests.