

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 NURSING CARE CENTER ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS

Effective January 1, 2021

Emergency Management (EM) Chapter

EM.03.01.03

The organization 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 organization activates its Emergency Operations Plan twice a year at each site included in the plan. □ □
 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.

3. **The organization conducts exercises to test the emergency plan at least twice per year. The first annual exercise is selected from one of the following:** □ (D)
- A full-scale, community-based exercise.
- When a community-based exercise is not possible, a facility-based, functional exercise.
- If the organization experiences an actual emergency (natural or man-made) that requires activation of the emergency plan, the organization 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.

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

2. Organizations that offer emergency services or are an officially designated community disaster-receiving station include an influx of simulated patients and residents in at least one of the organization's two emergency response exercises. □ □
 Note 1: Tabletop sessions, though useful, cannot serve for this portion of the exercise.
 Note 2: This portion of the emergency response exercise can be conducted separately or in conjunction with EM.03.01.03, EPs 3 and 4.

4. For organizations with a defined role in the community's response plan, at least one of the two emergency response exercises includes participation in a communitywide exercise. □ □
 Note 1: This portion of the emergency response exercise can be conducted separately or in conjunction with EM.03.01.03, EPs 2 and 3.
 Note 2: Tabletop sessions are acceptable in meeting the community portion of this exercise.

Key: (D) indicates that documentation is required; (R) indicates an identified risk area;