

Non-Medical Points of Distribution Calculator Overview

Purpose of the Tool

This tool was developed to assist emergency planners in determining the appropriate number of Non-Medical Points of Distribution (PODs) to maintain in their jurisdiction. The suggested number of PODs is based on population, as set forth by the USACE. In addition, the tool presents initial and life-cycle costs for acquiring and maintaining this resource. Planners can customize the costs and quantities of personnel and equipment to reflect the realities and needs of their jurisdiction. In this way, the tool can provide jurisdiction-specific costs to assist with budgeting and the preparation of investment justification proposals.

How to Use the Tool

Jurisdictions can input their basic risk factor information on the “Your Info” page. Jurisdictions then choose what combination of POD Types they prefer, leading directly to their capability need, which is then populated throughout the tool. Default quantities and costs are already populated in the tool, but planners can change these to reflect the costs and needs of their jurisdiction. This customization is then copied so that the output cost pages are jurisdiction-specific. Costs are presented in terms of the initial investment costs as well as annualized life-cycle costs for maintenance. Operational costs are presented both with and separately from life-cycle costs to provide jurisdictions with as much information as possible.

Cost Drivers

For both annualized and life-cycle costs, equipment is the major cost driver. Of the total equipment costs, the costs of the Loading Point Equipment make up the majority of the total. Specifically, the price associated with Forklifts and Power Light Sets are very high. Operational costs for Non-Medical PODs are significantly higher than annualized or life-cycle costs. If the supplies to be distributed are not donated, the costs of the ice, water, meals-ready-to-eat, and tarps for the public are substantially more costly than other resources. If these supplies are donated, personnel costs make up the majority of the operational costs.

Tool Limitations

This tool looks at the team-based resource requirements of capabilities. It does not take into account other parts of preparedness, such as building strong plans to implement the Non-Medical PODs, or exercising the capability to keep it operational and effective.

It is also important to note that running this tool at the city/county level does not produce the full picture of regional preparedness. The requirements produced will be only the

number and types of teams needed, and not where (geographically) they should be placed to ensure maximum capability coverage, which is of particular importance with PODs.

References

United States Army Corps of Engineers. “*Local Distribution Point Planning for Commodities*”, June 2005.

FEMA Emergency Management Institute. “*IS-26: Guide to Points of Distribution*”, <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is26.asp>>