



A Planning Methodology for Civil Defense in the 21st Century: VICTOR-E

Jurisdictions today face an unprecedented threat from nation-state actors who have demonstrated both the intent and capability to weaponize cyberattacks to degrade critical infrastructure operations. At the same time, aging infrastructure and systems are facing extreme-weather hazards they were not designed to withstand. CNA's VICTOR-E process outlined below provides a systematic methodology for civil defense planning to manage the consequences from long-term, widespread outages of community lifelines such as water, power, or telecommunications.



Understand **V**ulnerabilities

First, jurisdictions need to understand the potential vulnerabilities of their infrastructure. A successful attack on a jurisdiction's infrastructure could cripple public and private sector operations, devastate the economy, and severely impact readiness at military installations.

Identify **I**mpacts

Next, jurisdictions should identify potential impacts that would result from a successful attack on critical infrastructure. Degraded water and wastewater facilities, payment processing platforms, power generation facilities, and telecommunication networks could all negatively impact community lifeline services.

Determine **C**onsequence Management Activities

Then, jurisdiction emergency managers can determine the consequence management activities that will be necessary to address these impacts, such as water and food distribution so that businesses and schools can remain open, emergency communications to enable public services, and fuel supplies for emergency generators.

Build **T**oward **O**perational **R**eadiness

Finally, jurisdictions can further their operational readiness by categorizing their consequence management activities into a set of mission areas. Mission areas capture the critical operational actions and anticipated future challenges that jurisdictions will need to address to manage the consequences of degraded community lifelines from prolonged outages of critical infrastructure systems.

Develop **E**ffective Plans

Together, the mission areas provide the framework for jurisdictions to build effective consequence management plans that will enhance their resilience efforts against the complex threat landscape of the 21st century.