

Pre-Course Assignment

“Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction”

Welcome to the two-day “Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction” (BOSCR) course. This course supplements the National Fire Academy’s (NFA’s) six-day “Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction” (LSCRR) course.

The leadership strategies course focuses on how to approach community risk reduction in a strategic manner. A huge component of that process is building organizational support so that community risk reduction becomes an organizational priority whereby every member plays a key role in its success.

BOSCR empowers students with the ability to build organizational support for risk reduction so that it becomes a core value that is displayed through behaviors exhibited by the department at large.

As part of the learning experience, students will explore the current level of organizational support that exists for community risk reduction in their department.

Students will also identify what constitutes “best practice” levels of support and the outcomes that can be achieved if community risk reduction becomes a core value within their department.

The BOSCR course features “real world” examples of how to apply community risk reduction in a focused manner. It also articulates how to integrate the concept into the mindset of staff and the mission of the fire department. The course is not about support for specific programs but rather building organizational support for the process of community risk reduction.

The BOSCR course includes three units of instruction.

Unit 1: Components of Strategic Community Risk Reduction. Upon completion of this unit, students will be able to describe common elements of strategic community risk reduction.

Unit 2: Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction. Students will be able to build organizational support for community risk reduction.

Unit 3: Community Risk Reduction as a Service Priority. This unit empowers students with the ability to develop a plan for how community risk reduction can be used as a service priority by their organization to help meet the mission of their municipality.

At the end of the course, students will be evaluated through a 25-question multiple choice examination. A final grade will be provided to each student. The minimum score needed to pass the course is 70.

To prepare for the BOSCRR course, please perform the following actions:

- Locate and bring the mission statement for both your organization and the municipality it serves. Be prepared to discuss the following:
 - What are your city's priorities?
 - Where does the fire department fit into the scope of priorities?
 - What departments exist within your local government (i.e., parks, police, water, etc.)?
 - How is the municipality's budget divided amongst the departments (percent)?
 - Have knowledge and understanding of the community risk-reduction programs being offered by your department. Be prepared to discuss the following:
 - What programs does your department offer?
 - How effective do you believe they are?
 - If there are successes that can be attributed to specific programs, what are they?
 - If there are challenges that are impeding the impact of specific programs, please identify them.
 - Have an understanding of the level of organizational support for community risk reduction that exists within your organization. Be prepared to discuss the following:
 - Is more than one person (or small group) actively involved in performing/supporting risk-reduction efforts?
 - Does the organization provide support to the programs in the form of time, people and funding?
 - What types of internal support exist for risk reduction?
 - What are the overall attitudes and behaviors displayed toward risk reduction by your organization's leadership and membership at large?
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