

## Vulnerability Assessment

- Examine Hazard Vulnerability
  - Current H/VA
  - Keeping a pulse on Regional and Local changes and evolution
  - 5 Features of threats (physical, predictability, controllability, sociocultural, and ecological)

Please see the **handout 15a** of the Michigan HVA Tool. We will not be spending a lot of time on this tool; it is being shared as an example—you may already have your own tool to use. If it is something you'd like to pursue with your TA person, that person can help you use the tool to guide your HVA efforts.

In general, how can you keep a pulse on the community as it grows/shrinks and changes? You might want to maintain a relationship with people in these particular roles across your Region so that you can ask them to gather information and updates for you to include in your planning process (in fact, you might be able to plan a semi-annual forum with these leaders to understand changes—they would probably benefit just as much as the EM planning team by communicating with each other, too):

1. Economic development leaders
2. City/County administrators/planners
3. Elected officials
4. Public health officials
5. Manufacturing Association leaders
6. Hospital officials
7. School officials
8. Utility leaders
9. Newspaper editors/owners
10. Chamber of Commerce leaders
11. Library leaders
12. Bank presidents
13. Tourism/Visitor Bureaus
14. Police and Fire leaders
15. Others as identified

[Note: you'll notice that this list starts to look like the list of people to invite to be on your planning team. If they are not on your planning team, the emphasis should be to invite them to share information about what they know, from their organizational perspective, about the changing community.]

If you can't seem to get people to respond, the fastest way to obtain insights about the changing community is to scan the publications of the organizations represented in this list. Eco Devo leaders, for examples, like to boast about the additional manufacturing jobs and facilities that have come to town and will place this in their annual report. Or Chambers like to discuss the expanded retail and new shopping facilities in their annual reports. The same is true of all organizations: they like to discuss their role in helping good things happen (i.e., growth), and they'll usually publicize such information in annual reports, news releases, etc. Gather such documents could be a great opportunity for a college student/class doing a research project, especially if you take the time to spell out the first time exactly what the student needs to collect and peruse and what to look for. Structure this activity once, and have a new student do it each year for his/her research project.

Finally, keep a folder of newspaper clippings, emails, and other forms of media announcements that say something about change in your Region. Have everyone on the planning team keep such a folder and go through the material as a group periodically to see if new plans are warranted.