

# Use of Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) as a Life Saving Tool for Disaster Preparedness

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## **Abstract:**

Institutions and including health-care organizations have always had to prepare for and respond to a wide array of routine emergency and catastrophic disaster events. Institutions are now expected to develop, implement, train, and exercise comprehensive all-hazards emergency management and operations plans. These planning efforts need to be inclusive of all four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA), which was developed by the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) is a quantitative tool, developed by the American Hospital Association. The HVA utilizes a rating system for the probability, risk, and preparedness for various hazards and disastrous situations.

During the disaster response education for experts, there was a session for community HVA practice, and researcher gathered the opinions and results of experts from various places. The number of specific events was 61, and they were classified to natural disaster, man-made disaster, social crisis event, terrorism.

The opinions and results about HVA analysis are widely different based on experts and regions, but experts agreed the usefulness of HVA for policy making and stimulation for disaster preparedness.

Although incomplete and incorrect results yet, the value of HVA is that we can see the quantitative results about the vulnerability of the society and region against the disaster or emergency situation, so we should understand and use wisely the capability to cope with the disaster or emergency situation.

**Keywords:** Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, HVA, Disaster, Emergency, Vulnerability, Hazard