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## **Societal security — Mass evacuation — Guidelines for planning**

*Sécurité sociétale — Évacuation de masse — Lignes directrices pour  
la planification*



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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 General aspects for mass evacuation planning</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	2
4.2 Risk assessment.....	2
4.3 Compliance with legislation and policies.....	3
4.4 Information gathering and analysis.....	3
4.5 Planning operational resource allocation.....	4
4.6 Planning and documenting processes.....	4
4.7 Effective multi-agency partnering arrangements.....	4
4.8 Training and exercising.....	5
<b>5 Prepare the public for mass evacuation</b> .....	<b>6</b>
5.1 General.....	6
5.2 Identify how the public can prepare for mass evacuation.....	6
5.3 Use research findings when developing plans.....	7
5.4 Identify key characteristics of the population.....	7
5.5 Evaluate each identified social group.....	8
5.6 Introduce products, services, and activities which improve preparedness.....	8
5.7 Reduce barriers to preparing for mass evacuation.....	8
<b>6 Visualize the areas that are at risk or affected</b> .....	<b>9</b>
6.1 General.....	9
6.2 Map data about the area that is at risk or affected.....	9
6.3 Types of information to capture on maps.....	10
6.4 Ensure the compatibility of data to build maps.....	10
<b>7 Make the evacuation decision</b> .....	<b>10</b>
7.1 General.....	10
7.2 Develop an evacuation decision-making process.....	11
7.2.1 Evacuation activation points.....	11
7.3 Use evacuation objectives.....	11
7.4 Resolve conflicting evacuation objectives.....	12
7.5 Identify information needed to order an evacuation.....	13
7.6 Ensure that decision-makers have access to needed information.....	13
7.7 Identify factors that drive decisions for specific risks.....	13
7.8 Developing a system to track and log decisions made.....	13
<b>8 Public warning</b> .....	<b>14</b>
8.1 General.....	14
8.2 Systems to warn and inform the public.....	14
8.3 Promote a community-based warning system.....	14
8.4 Protocols for communication with various stakeholders.....	15
8.4.1 The public.....	15
8.4.2 Special facilities.....	16
8.5 Design and test a template for the warning message.....	16
8.6 Analyse the anticipated time to warn the public.....	17

This is a preview of "ISO 22315:2014". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

<b>9</b>	<b>Analyse evacuee movement</b> .....	<b>17</b>
9.1	General .....	17
9.2	Understand potential population movement .....	17
9.3	Understand evacuees' transportation behaviour .....	18
9.4	Identify demand and availability of the transport network .....	18
9.5	Identify transport performance measures and targets .....	19
9.6	Analyse transport strategies and policies .....	19
9.7	Communicate transport information to the public .....	20
<b>10</b>	<b>Assess evacuee shelter requirements</b> .....	<b>20</b>
10.1	General .....	20
10.2	Estimate shelter demand .....	20
10.3	Identify suitable shelters .....	21
10.4	Establish shelter agreements .....	21
10.5	Analyse shelter availability during the incident .....	21
10.6	Manage evacuee registration and support services .....	22
10.7	Organize shelter supplies and mutual aid .....	22
10.8	Develop a safe return plan .....	22
<b>11</b>	<b>Evaluate and continually improve</b> .....	<b>23</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>24</b>

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword — Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 223, *Societal security*.

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## Introduction

This International Standard provides guidance on planning for mass evacuation. An evacuation in response to a risk or threat is the movement of people from a designated area. In this context a mass evacuation is characterized by the need for multi-agency collaboration and resources. Typically this involves a larger number of people or wider area at risk. It is difficult to define mass evacuation in terms of numbers or scale because disasters, communities and responder capabilities differ. However, it can be considered in terms of the number of evacuees exceeding an everyday scale of response such as the evacuation of a city, region or large populated area.

The need for evacuation can arise from naturally occurring events, human induced events (both intentional and unintentional) and events caused by technological failures. Some events require an immediate evacuation while others give advanced warning.

Effective planning is important to help save human life and reduce suffering. Planning helps to deliver an effective response and is part of emergency management. This International Standard provides guidance for developing mass evacuation plans, supporting decision-making, increasing the potential for an effective response, and strengthening preparedness of the public and organizations. It also recognizes that there are barriers that could hinder people from evacuating, such as concern for pets, valuable possessions or items that sustain livelihoods.

This International Standard is intended for use by those responsible for establishing mass evacuation plans as well as preparing locations to receive evacuees on a mass scale. It includes the following eight activities that also provide the structure to the eight clauses in this International Standard ([Clauses 4 to 11](#)), the order of which does not necessarily suggest a sequence.

**Table 1 — [Clauses 4-11](#) in this International Standard**

General aspects for mass evacuation planning ( <a href="#">Clause 4</a> )						
Prepare the public for mass evacuation ( <a href="#">Clause 5</a> )	Visualize the areas that are at risk or affected ( <a href="#">Clause 6</a> )	Make the evacuation decision ( <a href="#">Clause 7</a> )	Public warning ( <a href="#">Clause 8</a> )	Analyse evacuee movement ( <a href="#">Clause 9</a> )	Assess evacuee shelter requirements ( <a href="#">Clause 10</a> )	Evaluate and continually improve ( <a href="#">Clause 11</a> )

[Table 1](#) illustrates that there are some general aspects for mass evacuation planning ([Clause 4](#)) (for example, risk assessment and exercising) and these support the provisions contained in [Clauses 5 to 11](#). A plan to prepare the public to react effectively ([Clause 5](#)) and a plan to understand and visualize an area at risk and/or an affected area ([Clause 6](#)) provide decision-makers with information to enable them to decide whether to call for an evacuation. A plan to make the decision to call for an evacuation ([Clause 7](#)) aims to ensure that the decision-making process, objectives and participants are appropriate. A plan to warn the public of the need to react as advised ([Clause 8](#)) considers protocols for communication and community-based warning systems. Plans also consider the analysis of evacuee movement to an area of safety ([Clause 9](#)), for example, to understand transportation needs, demands and availability. Plans also aim to assess evacuee shelter requirements ([Clause 10](#)). For example, they can identify the demand for shelters and establish agreements to provide shelters. A plan for evaluating and continually improving evacuation plans ([Clause 11](#)) concludes this International Standard.

While this International Standard recognizes the importance of stabilizing the affected area after an evacuation, as well as the importance of protecting property and preserving the environment, these aspects are not its main focus.