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## Competitive Division - Practitioner <u>Itís Not Broken, Just Misunderstood: The Case for Retaining an</u> <u>All-Hazards Approach</u>

Numerous journal articles and the release of Presidential Action Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness have called for a risk-informed process versus an all-hazards approach. Does an all-hazards approach literally mean eliminating the need for threat or risk specific planning? No. This misinterprets the intent of an all-hazards approach, fosters one-dimensional emergency management, and ignores the use of tools like the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process.

An all-hazards approach is designed to broadly describe responsibility to organizations and individuals; establish lines of authority and organizational relationships; identify steps to address mitigation concerns during response and recovery; and identify personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and resources available. It assists in the development of an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) or base plan for aiding the rapid assembly, situational assessment, organizational structure, and efficient coordination of resources. It's not intended to replace functional annexes or hazard specific appendices that address actions and resources for specific threat situations.

In theory, emergency managers should already be implementing a risk-informed approach. The THIRA process and consequence analysis should prioritize strategic investments and inform training and exercises opportunities to meet a broad range of preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery objectives.

**Presentation Theme:** My presentation is based on experience and findings from practice. The concept came about as a result of recent discussions, articles, and presidential policy changes that impact the field of emergency management.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: N/A