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

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



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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).

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).

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*.

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 (Clause 4)						
Prepare the public for mass evacuation (Clause 5)	Visualize the areas that are at risk or affected (Clause 6)	Make the evacuation decision (Clause 7)	Public warning (Clause 8)	Analyse evacuee movement (Clause 9)	Assess evacuee shelter requirements (Clause 10)	Evaluate and continually improve (Clause 11)

[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.

Societal security — Mass evacuation — Guidelines for planning

1 Scope

This International Standard provides guidelines for mass evacuation planning in terms of establishing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, reviewing and improving preparedness. It establishes a framework for each activity in mass evacuation planning for all identified hazards. It will help organizations to develop plans that are evidence-based and that can be evaluated for their effectiveness.

This International Standard is intended for use by organizations with responsibility for, or involvement in, part or all of the planning for mass evacuation. It is applicable to all types and sizes of organizations that are involved in the planning for mass evacuation, such as local, regional, and national governments; statutory bodies; international and non-governmental organizations; businesses; and public and social groups.

This International Standard covers planning for mass evacuation in order to gain a more effective response during the actual evacuation. It will assist organizations to meet their obligation of saving human life and reducing suffering.

This International Standard does not cover activities to stabilize the affected area after an evacuation, protect property and preserve the environment.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22300, *Societal security — Terminology*

ISO 22320, *Societal security — Emergency management — Requirements for incident response*

ISO 22322, *Societal Security — Emergency management — Public warning*

ISO 22398, *Societal security — Guidelines for exercises*

ISO 31000, *Risk management — Principles and guidelines*

ISO/IEC 31010, *Risk management — Risk assessment techniques*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 22300 and the following apply:

3.1

incident management system

system that defines the roles and responsibilities of personnel and the operating procedures to be used in the management of incidents

3.2

preparedness

knowledge and capacities developed to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impact of likely imminent or current hazard events or conditions