



# INTRODUCTION

2

## **Welcome to Step 2 of the ReadyTN Faith Journey.**

*If you haven't already, take a few minutes to complete Step 1 to receive monthly updates, resources, tips, and other valuable tools to assist your house of worship in fostering a resilient community.*

Developing or updating an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a vital step in ensuring that your house of worship is prepared to protect your members, staff, and community during times of crisis. Prior to beginning the planning process, it is important to take time for self-assessment. The following tools are designed to help your institution evaluate its current level of preparedness, identify strengths, and recognize areas where improvements are needed. These self-assessments and checklists can be tailored to fit your house of worship's specific needs, capacity, and timeline, allowing you to move forward at a pace that works best for your leadership and congregation.

In addition to these self-assessments, houses of worship are encouraged to:

- Contact your insurance carrier. Your carrier may have tools, including risk assessments, available as well. Upon completion of the insurance assessment, confirm your coverage and request a policy review. Insurance considerations are an essential component of preparedness and recovery.
- Consult with your denominational disaster preparedness office or leadership (if applicable) for additional guidance, resources, and expectations that may support your planning process.
- Form a preparedness team to evaluate these assessments. This team may want to separate/divide sections into teams. This group/team will likely also be responsible for creating or updating your emergency operations plan.
- Contact your local fire department to arrange a walk through.

By utilizing these resources, your place of worship will be better positioned to develop a comprehensive emergency operations plan: **Step 3** of the ReadyTN Faith Journey. For your convenience, a customizable Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is accessible through the ReadyTN Faith section of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency's Ready to Recover website: <https://www.tn.gov/tema/prepare/ready-to-recover.html>

Questions? Contact: [TEMA.ExternalAffairs@tn.gov](mailto:TEMA.ExternalAffairs@tn.gov)