Evaluating Emergency Shelters in a Facility Siting Study

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Abstract

The American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 752 (API RP 752) [1] requires designation of every occupied building as either to be evacuated or to be used as an Emergency Shelter* in the event of a fire or toxic release. In general, industry has been addressing consequences for buildings that are evacuated during a fire or toxic release for many years but addressing hazards for buildings used as an Emergency Shelter is a unique problem, different than that for buildings which are evacuated. Unfortunately, it is also an issue without a universally accepted approach. This paper lists available published guidance documents including those intended for other audiences and presents a best practices approach to address the API RP 752 Emergency Shelter requirements.