One of the key benefits of Ready Rating membership is the access it provides to two emergency preparedness assessments. Ready Rating Go and Ready Rating Advance.

Thousands of organizations from commercial businesses to houses of worship, schools, and not-for-profits have used a Ready Rating Assessment to measure the quality of their emergency response plan.

Organized into five areas, each of these assessments can provide valuable insight into the depth and breadth of your organization’s emergency plan.

After becoming a Ready Rating member, you can choose which of the two assessments is best for your organization. Both were developed with the assistance of the Red Cross’ Scientific Advisory Council and represent a synthesis of various industry standards and best practices.

Ready Rating Go is a 20-question assessment designed for organizations that are relatively new to emergency planning.

Many people complete this assessment in fifteen to thirty minutes.

If your organization is more experienced or you are interested in a more comprehensive review, consider investing forty-five minutes to one hour and complete the 50-question Ready Rating Advance assessment.

Taking either of these assessments entitles you to a detailed Next Steps Report that, after evaluating your responses, will highlight some suggested ‘best practices’ and other actionable recommendations that you might want to consider including in your emergency response plan.

In addition to specific recommendations, the Next Steps Report will link you to a variety of useful resources including videos that can help you improve your program.

Each question in both assessments has a weighted value which is used by the Next Steps Report to score your performance in five general areas. Specifically:

1. Participation – this includes questions about management’s commitment to the emergency plan and the willingness of your organization to involve all stakeholders in the safety initiative.
2. Emergency Planning – a section that focuses on the structure and operational readiness of your emergency response policies.
3. Facility and Equipment – this section includes questions about your working environment and the type of tools you have on hand to respond to emergencies.
4. Training and Exercises – no one can be expected to properly execute a plan without some training. This portion of the questionnaire helps measure the type and frequency of training provided in support of your emergency response effort.
5. Extended Community – this section draws attention to the role that your organization can play in the larger context of helping your extended community deal with emergencies.

Taken together these five sections provide a useful profile of your plan’s maturity and completeness.

In addition to the information you gain from taking one of the assessments, completing either will earn you a Star in the Ready Rating Recognition Program. A second Star can be earned by simply implementing the advice from one or more of the recommendations and updating your assessment to show this improvement. Doing so will also generate an updated Next Steps Report containing other suggestions for improvement.

There you have it. A quick overview of these two powerful evaluation tools. To learn more, simply sign up for a membership and begin filling out an assessment.

Completing one of the Ready Rating Assessments is a quick but powerful way to receive an objective evaluation of your program and advice on how to improve it.

For more information, visit the Ready Rating website.