Owners and operators of criminal justice facilities bear the responsibility of restoring and maintaining public safety during and after a disaster. The impacts of disasters often affect stakeholders’ ability to deliver these critical public safety services. The best defense against these impacts is pre-disaster planning. Our criminal justice planners and emergency management and disaster mitigation experts offer resiliency readiness planning services to assist clients with assessing current plans, developing a concept of operations to mitigate the effects of a disaster, conducting emergency response operations, restoring public safety, and efficiently recovering from the incident. This planning process is an interactive, collaborative effort that brings together criminal justice, emergency management, and community stakeholders.

The result is a consensus-built plan that guides the criminal justice system to restore public safety.
“Hurricane Katrina immediately changed how New Orleans would deliver public safety services to the citizens of Orleans Parish. Confronted with Katrina’s devastation, I needed to react to the immediate and the long-term rebuilding needs.

Dewberry’s assistance in planning for these post-hurricane needs was critical to achieving a strategic and sustainable recovery.

Their recommendations gave us a clarity of vision to rebuild Orleans Parish’s public safety program, recommendations that are proactive and resilient to future disasters.”

Sheriff Marlin Gusman
Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Lessons Learned: Impacts of Disasters on Public Safety

- Public safety facilities compromised or destroyed resulting in a need to repurpose remaining facilities for public safety use
- Government workforce impacted (e.g. no homes to return to)
- Damage to or loss of legal records and evidence
- Criminal activity surges
- Need for inter-jurisdiction government service agreements
- Public safety facility ownership conflicts
- New areas of litigation appear
- Need for state and federal disaster response and recovery assistance expertise
Preparing to be Resilient

RESILIENCY READINESS PLANNING

EXPECTATIONS
PREPARATION
Review
Develop Options
Final Concept
DOCUMENT
Workshop #1
Workshop #2
Workshop #3
Dewberry® Services

- Subject matter expertise in emergency management, post-disaster recovery federal assistance, and criminal justice planning and design
- Emergency operations plan assessments and gap analysis; and corrective action planning
- Inventory and assessment of existing facilities for repurposing and disaster readiness
- Facilitation and coordination of intergovernmental services
- Development of resiliency readiness plans through a whole-community, collaborative, and consensus-based approach
- Restoration of security and technology systems
Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Recognized for combining unsurpassed commitment to client service with deep subject matter expertise, Dewberry is dedicated to solving clients’ most complex challenges and transforming their communities. Established in 1956, Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with more than 40 locations and 2,000 professionals nationwide. To learn more, visit www.dewberry.com.