Wellspring Info

Tips for Improving Your Evacuation Maps

Having read thousands of emergency response plans, here are a few tips for improving your evacuation maps. Your creative services department can incorporate these changes or our design team can enhance your maps for a small fee:

- When it comes to emergency response and safety, functionality trumps aesthetic beauty. Make key information such as AED locations, stairwells, street names, rallying points, twice or three times as large as you have them now.
- Use a font that's easy to read. A capital I (as in, Integral), should not look like a lowercased l (as in, lose). You can't go wrong with Times New Roman.
- The goal is for people to be able to read your maps even if there's smoke in the room and they don't have their glasses. Black is a lot easier to read than gray.
- If you're not sure if something needs to be on your map, leave it out. Leaving it out will help the critical information will pop.
- Vertical maps will be easier to read on smartphones than squares or circles.
- For printed guidebooks, foldout sheets or 8½ x 11-inch pull-up sheets can make a big difference. Here's a picture of a foldout map in an emergency guidebook: