One of the most popular aspects of the Ready Rating program is the assessments that are provided as a member benefit.

The Red Cross’ ReadyGo and ReadyAdvance programs are tools designed to provide users with an objective and clear-cut evaluation of the breadth and depth of their Emergency Response Plan based on a comparison drawn from various international preparedness standards and industry best practices.

Many Ready Rating members remark that they learn a lot just by reading through the questions, which are organized into five areas covering topics such as Program Participation and Emergency Planning to involvement in the Extended Community.

The summary write-up which is automatically generated once an assessment is completed – is an even more instructive document.

Users are given an overall rating showing their performance against an ideal standard of 100 percent.

Many of the thousands of Ready Rating members find this objective measurement a useful tool to share with their management and open a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of their individual emergency response program.

Known as the Next Steps Report, this document provides feedback on each question that generated a negative response from the assessment taker. This consists of advice on how to strengthen an appropriate aspect of the emergency response plan and offers links to tools located in the Ready Rating Resource Centre that can help you accomplish these improvements.

The amount of work that some emergency response programs need can seem overwhelming. The Next Steps Report can help you prioritize your efforts.

Members are encouraged to choose up to five topics from the various recommendations provided in the report and focus their attention on improving performance in these areas.

As progress is made, it is important that you log into your Ready Rating account and update the last assessment by indicating that you have now enhanced your program and made some of the recommended changes.

Taking this step will either earn you an additional STAR in the Ready Rating Recognition program or allow you to keep a previously earned “Improvement Star.”

Second, it will result in a new Next Steps Report to be generated which will help you focus on new priorities and refinements to your program.

Access to tools like the Next Steps Report are an example of the types of benefits that come with membership in the Ready Rating program. These assessments were assembled by a team of experts with input and advice from the Red Cross.

To learn more about all aspects of the Ready Rating program, go to the website and start exploring.

Thank you for your interest in this program and your commitment to preparedness.