



National Preparedness Report

The 2012 National Preparedness Report (NPR) summarizes how prepared we are as a Nation. It focuses on five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. These mission areas organize the 31 core capabilities needed to achieve the National Preparedness Goal.

The NPR identifies areas where the Nation has made significant progress, acknowledges remaining opportunities for improvement, and reinforces the important principles of national preparedness. The NPR focuses on threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to U.S. security and resilience. Risks include acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters.

To develop the report, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worked with the whole community—including all levels of government, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, communities, and individuals. FEMA included recent, independent evaluations, surveys, and other data related to the core capabilities, as well as data from the 2011 State Preparedness Reports. All 56 U.S. states and territories conducted these statewide self-assessments of the core capabilities.

The Nation Is Stronger

Overall, the NPR found that the Nation has increased its collective preparedness not only for the countless threats posed by those who wish to harm America's homeland, but also for the many natural and technological hazards that face the Nation's communities. Areas of national strength include planning, operational coordination, intelligence and information sharing, and other response-related capabilities. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate accomplishments in two of these areas.

Areas of National Strength

The 2012 National Preparedness Report identified areas of national strength in the following core capabilities:

- **Planning:** The Nation has built the foundation for an integrated, all-hazards planning architecture that considers routine emergencies and catastrophic events and increasingly integrates whole community perspectives.
- **Operational Coordination:** The National Incident Management System (NIMS) provides a common doctrine for incident management, allowing the whole community to use shared language and principles. (Fig.1)
- **Intelligence and Information Sharing:** A national network of fusion centers and Joint Terrorism Task Forces brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as other public safety officials and private sector partners. (Fig. 2)
- **Environmental Response/Health and Safety:** A diverse set of federal, state, and local assets has the capabilities to address a wide range of routine and large-scale hazardous material and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive incidents.
- **Mass Search and Rescue Operations:** Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial resources comprise a mature search and rescue capability across the Nation.
- **Operational Communications:** Government partners around the country have established flexible and interoperable communications capabilities built on sound plans and tested through exercises and real-world events.
- **Public Health and Medical Services:** A wide range of partners contribute to a highly responsive public health and medical capability.

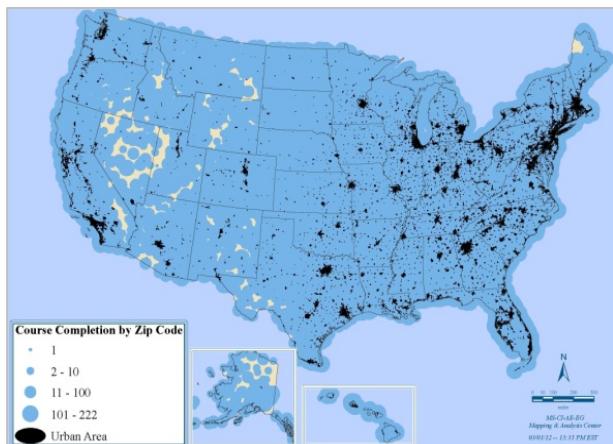


Figure 1: Operational Coordination
NIMS is the nationwide standard for incident management due, in part, to extensive web-based training.



Figure 2: Intelligence and Information Sharing
As of February 2012, the National Network of Fusion Centers includes 77 locations.

Opportunities for Improvement

While substantial progress has been made, continued coordination and investment in building, sustaining, and delivering the core capabilities is required from all segments of society to continue building upon the gains made in recent years. The NPR highlights room for improvement in cybersecurity and recovery-focused capabilities. For example, almost two-thirds of U.S. firms report that they have been the victim of cybersecurity incidents or information breaches. To counter these and related threats, federal and private sector partners have accelerated initiatives to enhance data collection, detect events, raise awareness, and response to cyber incidents. The report also identifies long-term recovery capabilities—including economic recovery, housing, and natural and cultural resources—as areas for improvement. The recent release of the National Disaster Recovery Framework will enhance national approaches to long-term recovery.

Key Factors for Future Progress

Everyone plays a role in preparedness, and continued progress depends on the whole community working together. The National Planning Frameworks will describe whole community roles and responsibilities across all five mission areas. Building on these and other efforts, the vision for future NPRs is to establish a routine, repeatable process that engages whole community partners and provides meaningful, consistent input to show progress annually.

About Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness

PPD-8 directs federal agencies to work with the whole community to improve national preparedness. The directive is aimed at “strengthening the security and resilience” of the United States through “systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the Nation.”

PPD-8 has several key parts:

- **National Preparedness Goal: The ends we wish to achieve**
- **National Preparedness System: The means to achieve it**
- **National Planning Frameworks and Interagency Operational Plans: The delivery; how we use what we build**
- **National Preparedness Report: The reporting of our progress**
- **Effort to Build and Sustain Preparedness: Ongoing Engagement**

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Revised 5/2/2012