



FEMA Fact Sheet

National Preparedness Authorities & Doctrine

The National Preparedness Guidelines (NPG) and the accompanying Target Capabilities List (TCL) set forth the doctrine, priorities, and targets to guide capabilities-based preparedness for Federal, State, local, private sector, and non-governmental jurisdictions and entities. The NPG and TCL currently provide guidance and reference information on building 37 capabilities for large-scale, non-routine events across the prevention, protection, response, and recovery homeland security mission areas.

The current version of the NPG and TCL were published and made available to the stakeholder community in September 2007. The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to revise and update the target capabilities to be risk-based, specific, flexible, and measurable.

The TCL identifies long-term goals for national preparedness – it does not represent the capability floor all jurisdictions must have and it does not replace applicable regulations or standards.

Updating the Target Capabilities

Through continued engagement with the stakeholder community, FEMA received valuable feedback for how the TCL's content and layout could be strengthened. Stakeholders acknowledged that the TCL contained valuable capability information but was difficult to navigate and apply to homeland security programs. Specifically, stakeholders commented that the TCL should identify measurable objectives and acknowledge that different jurisdictions need varying levels of capability based on risk factors and special characteristics.

In order to implement these changes, FEMA re-engaged stakeholders from all levels of government and the private sector to receive their recommendations for enhancing an initial subset of 6 Target C++ capabilities.

Benefits of the updated Target Capabilities include:

- Alignment with other preparedness documents – Reflect a consistent alignment with Federal policies and doctrine, industry standards, planning guidance, and applicable laws and regulations.

- Varied capability guidance for different types of jurisdictions – Provide capability-specific guidance for how risk factors (e.g., population, proximity to critical infrastructure) influence the appropriate level of capability for different jurisdictions to build and sustain.
- Emphasis on outcome-oriented, measurable performance metrics – Establish measurable readiness targets for jurisdictions to meet without prescribing how jurisdictions should meet those outcomes.
- Increased usability – Outline an intuitive, concise, and consistent guidance structure.

Simplifying the Capability-Based Planning Process

Each updated Target Capability will be expressed in three charts that can be used to guide the direction of preparedness programs and activities:

- Classes – Guidance for entities to determine how they may incorporate relevant risk factors in capability-based preparedness to avoid a “one-



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“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”



size-fits-all” approach. Risk factors for each of the 37 capabilities will vary depending on the unique circumstances of each capability.

- Target Outcomes – Each Target Capability sets measurable target outcomes and metrics to build capabilities against, while providing jurisdictions flexibility to determine how outcomes are achieved based upon their unique risks, makeup, and environment.

Resource Elements – Guidance on meeting and/or enhancing each Target Outcome through plans, personnel/teams, equipment, training and exercises (preparedness cycle). The TCL encourages jurisdictions to plan for the sharing of resources and the identification of assets that they may need access to during a major event. Consequently, jurisdictions are not expected to need or own all of the listed resources.

Driving the Preparedness Cycle

Together, the NPG and TCL influence how planning, equipping, training, exercising, and evaluation activities are performed along the preparedness cycle by helping to answer fundamental preparedness questions: How prepared are we? How prepared do we need to be? What should we do to close the gaps? (see graphic).

Stakeholder Review and Comment Period

FEMA is circulating the first set of updated Target Capabilities for broad stakeholder review and consultation:

- Multi-Agency Coordination (Emergency Operations Center Management)
- Mass Transit Protection
- On-Site Incident Management
- Weapons of Mass Destruction/Hazardous Materials Rescue

The updated Target Capabilities are pre-decisional drafts, and FEMA is seeking input from the user community, national associations, and other relevant audiences prior to initiating a formal review and approval process. The transparent development process serves as a means to have an open and frank discussion on setting and achieving national goals for preparedness.

FEMA is requesting stakeholder feedback to ensure that the updated Target Capabilities:

- Include the right balance of detail to be measurable and useful while not prescribing how target outcomes are achieved and remaining easy to use and understand;
- Set goals for large-scale, non-routine events that represent progressive, yet reasonable targets for improvement; and
- Provide useful guidance for class designations, risk considerations, target outcomes, performance measures, resource elements, and other content.

Comments received during this review period will be adjudicated and incorporated into the Target Capability drafts before the formal review occurs. All comments will be reviewed and discussed by subject-matter experts for the requisite Target Capability.

Stakeholders may request drafts of the 4 updated Target Capabilities by contacting FEMA through TCL@dhs.gov. The Target Capability drafts can also be accessed via Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov). In addition to the draft Target Capabilities and this two-pager, FEMA recommends stakeholders review the updated TCL User Guide for a detailed explanation of the project and its goals.

