



### 2014 National Preparedness Report

#### Overview

The *National Preparedness Report* (NPR) summarizes the Nation's progress in building, sustaining, and delivering the 31 core capabilities outlined in the *National Preparedness Goal* across all five mission areas from *Presidential Policy Directive 8* (PPD-8): Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery.

The intent of the NPR is to provide the Nation—not just the Federal Government—with practical insights on core capabilities that can inform decisions about program priorities, resource allocation, and community actions. This report marks the third annual NPR, updating and expanding upon findings from the previous two years. The 2014 NPR highlights accomplishments achieved or reported during 2013.

#### National Areas for Sustainment

The 2014 NPR identifies five core capabilities that are areas for sustainment. These areas for sustainment represent relatively mature capabilities that may face future capability gaps as current capability levels decline or demands increase.

- **Interdiction and Disruption:** International and domestic initiatives have made it more difficult for malicious actors to obtain nuclear and radiological materials, and have raised awareness of how they acquire bomb-making materials.
- **On-scene Security and Protection:** In 2013, the law enforcement community continued modifying tactics to better address active shooter events. States and territories cited emerging training gaps due to personnel turnover and attrition.
- **Operational Communications:** States and territories assessed Operational Communications among their highest-rated capabilities, but the Nation faces uncertainty with large-scale technology transitions.
- **Public and Private Services and Resources:** Resources for wildfire suppression are relatively mature, but a trend towards larger and more complex wildfires has increased demands on these resources.
- **Public Health and Medical Services:** States and territories identified this capability as a high-rated core capability in training and exercises, but state and local public health agencies face continued budget uncertainties.

#### National Areas for Improvement

The 2014 NPR identifies Cybersecurity, Health and Social Services, Housing, Infrastructure Systems, and Long-term Vulnerability Reduction as national areas for improvement. Cybersecurity, Health and Social Services, and Housing have been areas for improvement for three consecutive years, highlighting the challenges of raising capability levels on a national scale.

- **Cybersecurity:** The Nation is addressing lessons learned from the cyber-focused National Level Exercise conducted in 2012. Developing a well-trained cybersecurity workforce, however, remains a challenge for government and private sector entities.

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- **Health and Social Services:** The Nation continues to promote expanded access to survivor medical records across jurisdictional boundaries. Systematic approaches for measuring community health recovery following a disaster are still under development.
- **Housing:** Superstorm Sandy exposed the unique challenges of locating adequate temporary housing options in a densely-populated, urban environment. The Federal Government has begun to coordinate plans, policies, and resources to address these issues, but these efforts are still in their early stages.
- **Infrastructure Systems:** Superstorm Sandy demonstrated how an initial loss in electrical power could cascade to affect other infrastructure systems. Challenges remain in addressing aging infrastructure.
- **Long-term Vulnerability Reduction:** FEMA began to implement portions of the *Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012* to address sustainability of the National Flood Insurance Program. The *Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014* amended certain provisions from Biggert-Waters to delay implementation of full risk-based premium rates for certain properties.

## Overarching Findings on National Issues

In addition to key findings for each of the 31 core capabilities, the 2014 NPR outlines cross-cutting findings that involve multiple mission areas.

- **Embracing a new approach to disaster recovery:** In the wake of recent disasters, recovery efforts are not seeking simply to restore communities to their pre-disaster states; rather, they are increasingly tying recovery activities to strengthened resilience and helping communities mitigate the effects of future disasters.
- **Launching major national initiatives:** The Federal Government has initiated several national-level policy and planning initiatives that bring unity of effort to preparedness areas, including critical infrastructure security and resilience, cybersecurity, recovery capabilities, and climate change.
- **Managing resource uncertainties:** Reduced budgets at the state and local levels have created challenges for preparedness initiatives, resulting in increased emphasis on preparedness innovations and whole community partnerships.
- **Partnering with tribal nations:** The Nation is integrating tribal partners more systematically into preparedness. However, challenges remain for Federal agencies and tribal nations in increasing engagement and expanding training opportunities on relevant policies.

### Developing the 2014 National Preparedness Report

Based on stakeholder feedback, the 2014 NPR places a renewed emphasis on approachable language, clear visuals, and concise findings that are useful to preparedness professionals and non-experts alike. In developing this year's report, FEMA engaged 158 offices across 102 Federal components. FEMA also conducted outreach with state, local, and tribal partners, as well as professional organizations, to ensure the inclusion of whole community perspectives.

To support NPR development, the White House surveyed Federal partners about notable preparedness accomplishments and challenges in 2013. This survey also addressed sector-specific agencies leading infrastructure security and resilience activities. In addition, the 2014 NPR reflects results from the 2013 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments and State Preparedness Report submissions from 56 U.S. states and territories.

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