



National Preparedness Goal, Second Edition: Overview

Preparedness is the shared responsibility of our entire nation. With so many people involved and so much at stake, it is important to establish a common preparedness goal. The first edition of the National Preparedness Goal, released in September 2011, described a vision for preparedness nationwide and identified the core capabilities necessary to achieve that vision across the five mission areas—Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery. The second edition of the National Preparedness Goal incorporates critical edits identified through real world events, lessons learned and implementation of the National Preparedness System.

The Goal

The National Preparedness Goal defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The goal itself is:

“A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

These risks include natural hazards such as hurricanes and pandemic influenza, accidental hazards such as dam failures and chemical spills, and manmade threats such as acts of terrorism and cyber attacks.

The National Preparedness Goal is capabilities-based and is organized into the five mission areas:

- **Prevention.** Avoid, prevent or stop an imminent, threatened or actual act of terrorism.

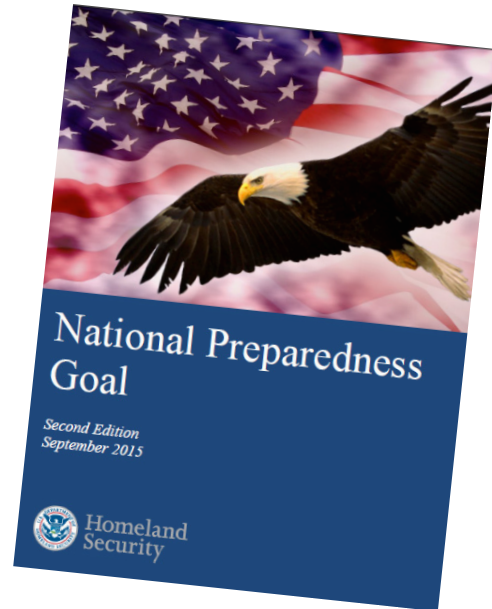


Figure 1: National Preparedness Goal, Second Edition

- **Protection.** Protect our citizens, residents, visitors, assets, systems and networks against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our vital interests and way of life to thrive.
- **Mitigation.** Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.
- **Response.** Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of an incident.
- **Recovery.** Assist communities affected by an incident to recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening and revitalization of infrastructure, housing and the economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic and environmental fabric of communities affected by an incident.

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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.”

Capabilities to Reach the Goal

The National Preparedness Goal identifies 32 distinct activities, called core capabilities, which are needed to address our greatest risks. The core capabilities serve as both preparedness tools and provide a common language for preparedness activities. They are highly interdependent and

require us to use existing preparedness networks and activities, coordinate and unify efforts, improve training and exercise programs, promote innovation and ensure that the administrative, finance and logistics systems are in place to support these capabilities.

Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
Planning				
Public Information and Warning				
Operational Coordination				
Intelligence and Information Sharing		Community Resilience Long-term Vulnerability Reduction Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment Threats and Hazards Identification	Infrastructure Systems	
Interdiction and Disruption			Critical Transportation Environmental Response/Health and Safety Fatality Management Services Fire Management and Suppression Logistics and Supply Chain Management Mass Care Services Mass Search and Rescue Operations On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement Operational Communications Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services Situational Assessment	Economic Recovery Health and Social Services Housing Natural and Cultural Resources
Screening, Search, and Detection				
Forensics and Attribution	Access Control and Identity Verification Cybersecurity Physical Protective Measures Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities Supply Chain Integrity and Security			

Figure 2. Core Capabilities, Organized by Mission Area

Whole Community Involvement

The National Preparedness Goal follows a whole community approach to preparedness. It recognizes that everyone can contribute to and benefit from national preparedness efforts. The Goal, itself, is a result of contributions from the whole community,

including individuals, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations and all levels of government (local, regional/metropolitan, state, tribal, territorial, insular area and Federal).

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