



**Examine and validate core capabilities and processes to rapidly exchange and analyze appropriate information (classified and unclassified) among federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and international partners prior to and during an incident that threatens the security of the nation.**

The National Exercise Program (NEP) is a two-year cycle of selected exercises across the nation that examines and validates capabilities in all preparedness mission areas. The 2017-2018 NEP cycle is guided by seven Principals' Objectives, established by the Principals Committee of the National Security Council and informed by data through the National Preparedness System.

## What is Intelligence and Information Sharing?

**Intelligence** is the **collection and analysis of timely, accurate, and actionable information** on any matter bearing on U.S. national or homeland security by federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and other stakeholders. **Information sharing** is the ability to **exchange intelligence** among government or private sector entities, as appropriate.

### Spotlight: Fusion Centers

Fusion centers operate as state and major urban area focal points for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information among federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners.

### RELATED CORE CAPABILITIES

- **Operational Coordination**
- **Intelligence and Information Sharing**
- **Planning**
- **Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities**

## Why is this important?

States and territories provide annual data on their proficiency across 32 core capabilities through the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR). FEMA reports the results of the capability assessments annually in the *National Preparedness Report* (NPR) to provide a comprehensive analysis of preparedness, including a shared national picture of training and exercise needs relative to capability gaps. Analytic results help shape training and exercise prioritization decisions at all levels.

### National Preparedness Report

The 2017 NPR reported that the nation has developed a number of **assets and partnerships** to support intelligence and information sharing.

2015-2016 NEP cycle exercises highlighted ongoing challenges, including **lack of direct channels and lack of mutual understanding** of partners' intelligence systems.



### State Preparedness Report

According to 2015 SPR data, nearly **85% of states and territories** identified intelligence and information sharing as a "High Priority."

State and local exercises highlighted challenges faced by fusion centers in **providing real-time intelligence** to federal partners, underscoring that fusion centers **must build stronger and more effective two-way information sharing partnerships**.

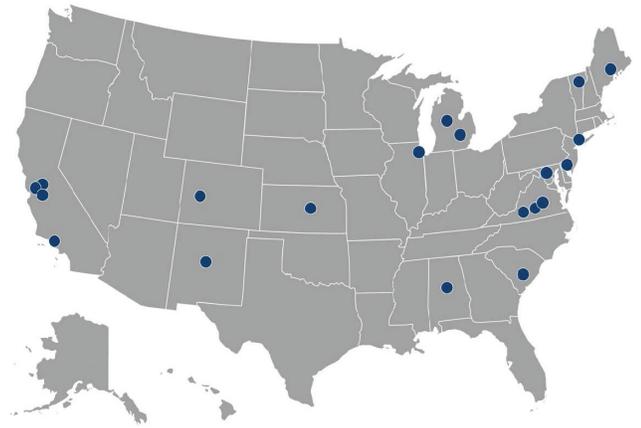
States and territories most frequently **reported exercise gaps** in developing reports and products, **disseminating intelligence and information**, and feedback and evaluation.



## What are the major challenges?

An analysis of 20 real-world and exercise after-action reports (AARs) revealed common challenges:

- Disseminating restricted or limited-distribution information to everyone who required the information, including fire, emergency medical services, and other first responders
- Using plain language and avoiding acronyms that cause confusion in information sharing across agencies
- Ensuring that state-level intelligence centers have a complete set of actionable intelligence policies and other guidance documents
- Providing key communications links through coordination with local, national, and private entities in order to increase awareness and expand outreach capabilities
- Developing more sophisticated information and intelligence processing systems for law enforcement, especially during large-scale events



*Distribution of jurisdictions that submitted AARs for exercises that tested intelligence and information sharing capabilities*

## What can I do?

Training and exercises can help all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and other partners across the whole community be better prepared. The National Exercise Division at FEMA is committed to providing assistance to partners in planning, designing, developing, conducting, and evaluating their own exercises that validate core capabilities.

### Exercise Starter Kits

Exercise Starter Kits are pre-packaged sets of guides and templates to help exercise planners develop tabletop exercises that can be tailored to the specific threats, resources, and operational plans of their community. Each Exercise Starter Kit:

- Includes ready-to-use materials and templates for developing, conducting, and evaluating an exercise
- Incorporates sample scenarios and discussion questions reviewed by experts
- Is flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of individual jurisdictions

Access the Exercise Starter Kits now at <https://preptoolkit.fema.gov/>

### Training Courses

Examples of relevant training courses are provided below. Course offerings frequently change; please visit [www.firstrespondertraining.gov](http://www.firstrespondertraining.gov) for a full list of training courses and additional resources.

- AWR-315:** Criminal Intelligence Analysis Essentials
- E0948:** Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture
- E0824:** Partner Coordination in Disaster Response and Recovery
- E0143:** Advanced Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture
- E0105:** Public Information and Warning
- IS-662:** Improving Preparedness and Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships

*FEMA training courses are provided at no cost to first responders.*

## National Exercise Program Nominations

Benefits of participating in the NEP include:

- Receiving technical assistance and support for your exercises from experienced exercise specialists
- Access to exercise templates, tools, and other resources to help you design, conduct, and evaluate your exercises
- The ability to pursue new exercise ideas and broaden the impact of your exercises to a wider group of stakeholders
- The opportunity to influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise findings

## How to Participate in the NEP

1. Visit [www.fema.gov/nep](http://www.fema.gov/nep) to learn more about the 2017-2018 cycle
2. Download and complete the Exercise Nomination Form
3. Work with your FEMA Regional Exercise Officer and submit the Exercise Nomination Form to [nep@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nep@fema.dhs.gov)
4. The FEMA National Exercise Division will respond to discuss your exercise