



Examine the ability of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions to conduct integrated multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary response planning, and to coordinate operations among law enforcement, fire and medical services, emergency management, and other whole community stakeholders for incidents with crisis and consequence management components such as complex terrorist attacks.

The National Exercise Program (NEP) is a two-year cycle of select exercises across the nation that examines and validates capabilities in all preparedness mission areas. The 2017-2018 NEP 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 are Multidisciplinary Response Operations?

Multidisciplinary response operations require a **whole community approach** that brings together federal, state, and local jurisdictions representing law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, communication centers, private-sector communities and non-government organizations.

Spotlight: Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series

The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) is a nationwide exercise series sponsored by the National Counterterrorism Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, designed to improve the ability of local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, communication, and private sector communities to prepare for complex terrorist attacks. For more information, contact JCTAWS@anl.gov.

RELATED CORE CAPABILITIES

- **Operational Coordination**
- **Operational Communications**
- **Situational Assessment**
- **Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services**
- **On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement**
- **Public Information and Warning**
- **Planning**

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 identified challenges interdicting plots by homegrown violent extremists. The NPR identified several needs related to complex terrorist attacks:

- Increasing educational outreach
- Suspending terrorist-linked social media accounts
- Developing counter-narrative messaging



Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

According to 2015 THIRA data, 57% of all states and territories identified explosive devices as a pressing threat or hazard.



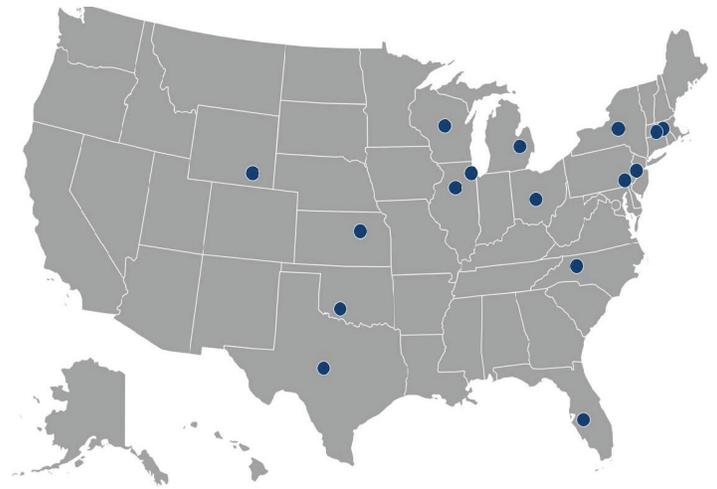
National Exercise Program Exercises

2015-2016 NEP cycle exercises highlighted the **need for local law enforcement to improve formalized tactical response plans and operational procedures** to address multiple synchronized small arms and improvised explosive device attacks against soft targets.

What are the major challenges?

An analysis of 16 real-world and exercise after-action reports (AARs) revealed common challenges:

- Establishing and maintaining unified coordination and command among multiple law enforcement agencies reporting through multiple command posts
- Operational planning, including the ability of multiple agencies and stakeholders to effectively coordinate and integrate different plans
- Establishing unified response plans with command, control, and communications (C3) protocols and procedures among all relevant regional assets
- Implementing plans and protocols that clearly define sharing of intelligence information between incident commands at different attack sites
- Implementing personnel plans related to relieving law enforcement officers and scene security in initial response plans, and meeting the protection need of the affected population over a geographically dispersed area
- Coordinating to provide alerts between emergency management agencies and news media



Distribution of jurisdictions that submitted AARs for exercises that tested multidisciplinary response operations 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

Examples of relevant training courses are provided below. Course offerings frequently change; please visit www.firstrespondertraining.gov for a full list of training courses and additional resources.

- AWR-122:** Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Attacks
- AWR-160-W:** Terrorism Awareness for Emergency First Responders
- PER-220:** Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents
- PER-232:** Initial Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks
- PER-250:** Emergency Response to Terrorism: Operations
- PER-335:** Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks
- PER-902:** Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents

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 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
4. The FEMA National Exercise Division will respond to discuss your exercise