



Examine the ability of whole community stakeholders to implement national policy, frameworks, and guidance, and to apply relevant authorities, plans, procedures, and available resources to achieve a coordinated response to significant cyber incidents.

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 is Cyber Coordination?

A cyber incident is the violation of an explicit or implied security policy that includes, but is not limited to: attempts to gain unauthorized access to a system or its data; unwanted disruption or denial of service; the unauthorized use of a system for processing or storing data; or changes to system hardware, firmware, or software characteristics without the owner's knowledge, instruction, or consent. A cyber incident can **jeopardize the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of computers, information or communications systems or networks, and physical and virtual infrastructure controlled by computers or information systems**. A cyber incident may include a vulnerability in an information system, system security procedures, internal controls, or implementation that could be exploited by a threat source.

Spotlight: 2017 Internet Security Threat Report

In 2016, there were 1,209 cyber breaches, 15 of which exposed more than **10 million identities**. 1.1 billion total identities were exposed, with an average of **927,000 identities exposed per breach**.

RELATED CORE CAPABILITIES

- **Cybersecurity**
- **Operational Coordination**
- **Planning**

Why is this important?

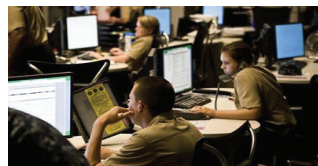
States and territories provide annual data on their proficiency across 32 core capabilities through the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and State Preparedness Report (SPR). FEMA reports the results of the capability assessments annually in the National Preparedness Report (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

As reported in the 2017 NPR, states and territories identified **continuity of operations for information technology systems and networks** as the largest functional area gap in the cybersecurity core capability.

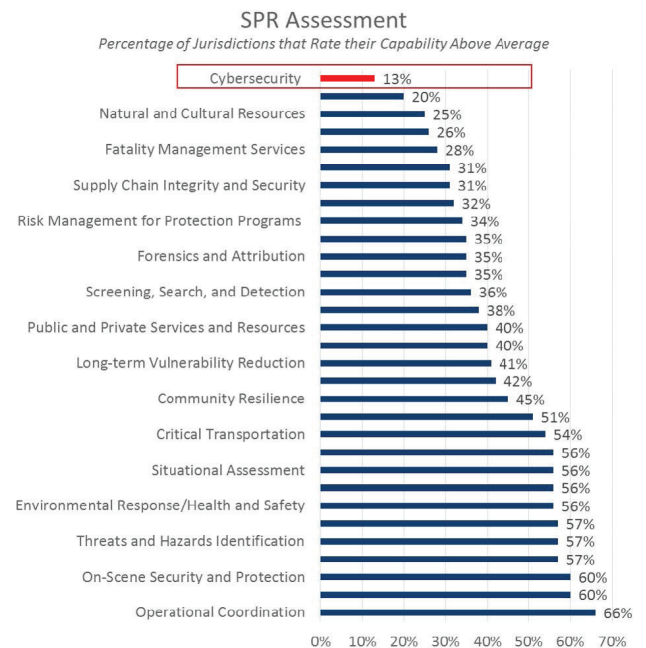
Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

According to 2015 THIRA data, 80% of states and territories identified **"Cyber Attack" as a primary threat of concern** - more frequent than any other threat or hazard.



State Preparedness Report

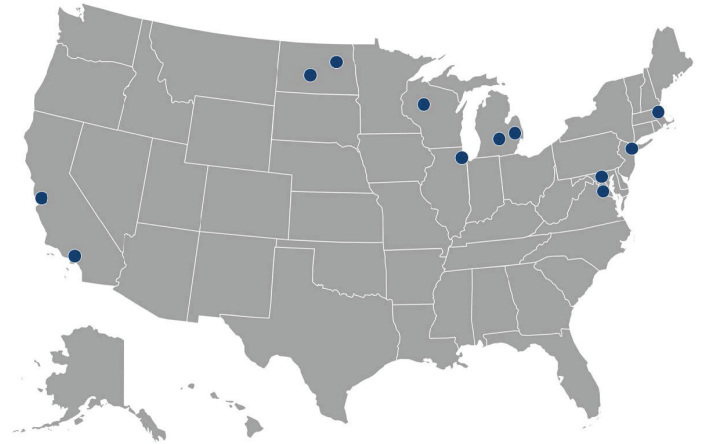
According to 2015 SPR data, cybersecurity has been the **lowest rated** core capability for five consecutive years, despite a majority of states and territories (88%) regarding cybersecurity as a **"High Priority"** core capability.



What are the major challenges?

An analysis of 14 real-world and exercise after-action reports (AARs) revealed common challenges:

- Understanding agency capabilities, responsibilities, and authorities, especially the role of city agencies during a cyber intrusion
- Developing a common operating picture
- Prioritizing response actions and managing collateral damage on secondary systems
- Reducing risk due to the interconnected nature of IT systems throughout a city, including reliance on cellular networks
- Linking cyber-specific plans to other relevant plans and establishing internal and external communication protocols with stakeholders
- Overcoming legal restrictions on information sharing, use of common language, and over-sanitization and delay in sharing intelligence
- Establishing policy and legal protections for cyber resources and assistance mechanisms; instructing personnel on basic information security training



Distribution of jurisdictions that submitted AARs for exercises that tested cyber coordination capabilities

Note: Multiple exercises may have been conducted within the same location

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 for a full list of training courses and additional resources.

- AWR-135:** Promoting Community Cyber Security
- AWR-136:** Essentials of Community Cyber Security
- AWR-169-W:** Cyber Incident Analysis and Response
- AWR-176-W:** Disaster Recovery for Information Systems
- IS-523:** Resilient Accord-Exercising Continuity Plans for Cyber Incidents
- MGT-384:** Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents
- MGT-385:** Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning

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