

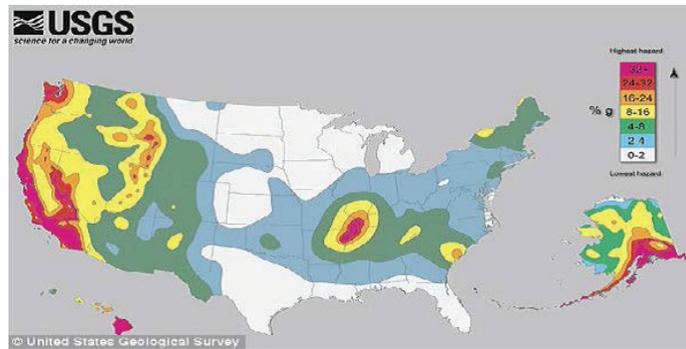


**Examine the ability of the whole community to deliver life-saving and life-sustaining capabilities to survivors following a catastrophic incident that severely affects communities and critical infrastructure.**

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 Catastrophic Incidents?**

A catastrophic incident, as defined by the National Response Framework, is any natural or manmade incident - including terrorism - that results in **extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption** severely affecting the **population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.**



This earthquake map of the United States shows 39 of the 50 states have a moderate to high seismic hazard risk. Earthquakes pose a major risk, especially for states in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, New Madrid Seismic Zone, and the Alaskan-Aleutian Megathrust.

**RELATED CORE CAPABILITIES**

- Operational Coordination
- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Critical Transportation
- Environmental Response/Health and Safety
- Fatality Management Services
- Infrastructure Systems
- Mass Care Services
- Mass Search and Rescue Operations
- Operational Communications
- Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services
- Situational Assessment
- Health and Social Services
- Economic Recovery

**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.

**Preparedness Data**

In 2016, earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, and wildfires were among the threats and hazards most frequently identified by jurisdictions. These incidents all have the potential to become catastrophic incidents.

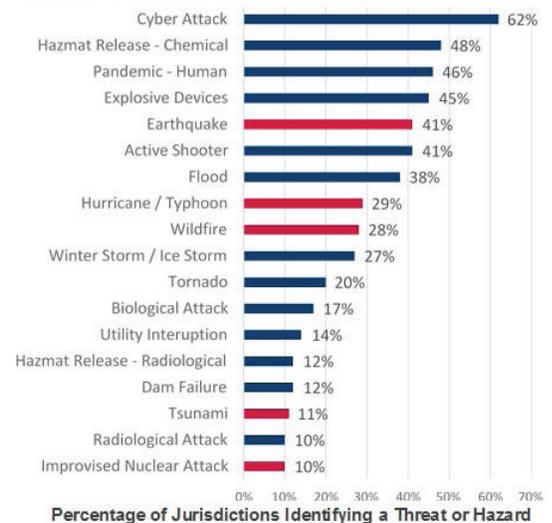
The Government Accountability Office has noted **no-notice catastrophic incidents as “one of the greatest challenges to national emergency preparedness.”**

**Hurricanes**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration predict that future hurricanes and tropical cyclones may have higher wind speeds and increase in intensity. Catastrophic incidents have highlighted the impacts of large-scale disasters. In 2017, the nation responded to an unprecedented four concurrent major disasters, to include Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and the California Wildfires. 25.8 million people were affected by the three concurrent hurricanes, receiving more than \$2 billion\* in disaster assistance to help survivors respond and recover. These catastrophic events required support from 48 states plus the District of Columbia to help communities respond and recover.

\*as of November 30, 2017

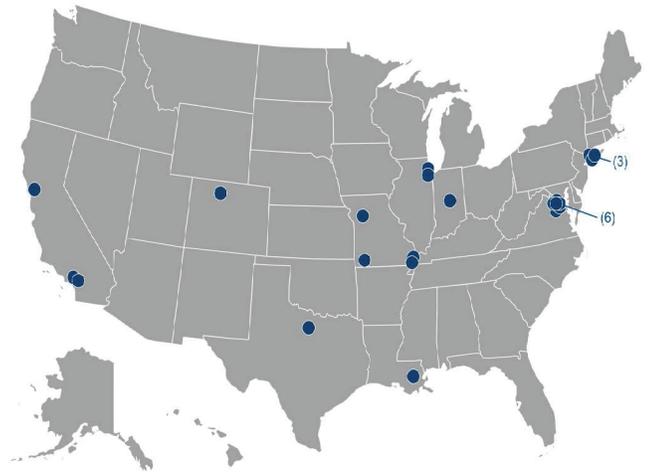
**Most Frequently Identified Threats and Hazards in 2016**



## What are the major challenges?

An analysis of 22 real-world and exercise after-action reports (AARs) revealed common challenges:

- Tracking and accepting shipment of resources in an effective, cohesive, and integrated fashion
- Maintaining situational awareness of resource and staffing needs in the field
- Developing doctrine or standard practices for data collection and analysis
- Coordinating information sharing and reporting practices that are disjointed, duplicative, or resource intensive
- Understanding legal authorities (i.e., Stafford Act, Economy Act)
- Standardizing protocols for integrating whole community partners, including tribes and regional partners, into planning, response, and recovery efforts
- Using effective communication procedures (especially among the National Response Coordination Center, the Unified Area Command, and the state) and synchronizing the operations tempos and situational reports across incident support and incident management
- Addressing insufficient state, local, tribal, and territorial capacity to take full advantage of FEMA assistance programs during large-scale incidents



*Distribution of jurisdictions that submitted AARs for exercises that tested catastrophic incident 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-232:** Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities
- E0431:** Understanding the Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- E0845:** Introduction to FEMA Disaster Emergency Communications
- IS-324.a:** Community Hurricane Preparedness
- IS-405:** Overview of Mass Care/Emergency Assistance
- L0324:** Hurricane Preparedness for Decision-Makers
- MGT-346:** EOC Operations and Planning for All Hazards
- MGT-346:** Hurricane Awareness

*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