

NLE 2012

STATE PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LEVEL EXERCISE (NLE) 2012

NLE 2012 Overview: NLE 2012 is part of a series of congressionally mandated preparedness exercises designed to educate and prepare participants for potential catastrophic events. The NLE 2012 process will examine the Nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or a series of events.

NLE 2012 State Engagement: Although several states are already engaged in the NLE 2012 process, there are a number of opportunities for others to engage in NLE 2012. These options include:

Communications Exercise: NLE 2012 will feature a communications exercise involving Federal, state, and select local governments. This exercise is intended to test various means of communications (primary and back-up systems) between all levels of government. Details on this exercise will be forthcoming through the FEMA Regional Offices.

Virtual Engagement: This option provides state and local agencies with a flexible way to participate remotely in the NLE 2012 process at a reduced level of resource commitment. Virtual engagement enables state and local agencies to follow the flow of the exercise via regular scenario updates and affords them the opportunity to consider the impact on their own environment and take corresponding action at the agency level. Agencies interested in participating will be provided scenario and response updates electronically throughout the course of the NLE Capstone Exercise. The Virtual Engagement option is open to all interested participants and registration is required.

Downloadable Tabletop Exercise (TTX) – “TTX in a Box”: The downloadable TTX enables an agency or organization to participate in a scaled down version of NLE 2012. The TTX is a Microsoft PowerPoint based slide presentation with embedded multimedia updates. The materials will include facilitator guidance and training information, exercise ground rules and proposed objectives, scenario introductions and updates, discussion questions tied to the scenario, and “hot wash” instructions. The downloadable TTX is for internal organizational use only and will not be monitored or evaluated by FEMA.

Cybersecurity Training: There are also numerous opportunities to participate in NLE 2012-related training courses. Training in emergency management and cybersecurity sponsored by DHS, FEMA, the Emergency Management Institute, and other training providers is currently available online. Most courses are web-based and free of charge and can be completed within a few hours or over the course of several days.

Observer Program: The program will take place during Exercise #3 at the Office of National Cybersecurity and Communications in Arlington, VA. The program includes: 1) a series of briefings providing information on the exercise and an update on the “state of play”; 2) an exercise-related tour visit to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center; 3) viewing of DHS' Cyber Operations Demonstration to show how cyber threats can potentially disrupt or destroy critical infrastructure assets and outlines the actions taken to help infrastructure owners and operators prevent and respond; and 4) remote viewing of the Master Control Center

NLE 2012 is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security/ Federal Emergency Management Agency/ National Exercise Division. For additional information regarding participation and training for NLE 2012 access the websites:

www.fema.gov/plan/nle, <http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/exercises.shtm>,
www.dhs.gov/files/training/cybersecurity.shtm, or contact your FEMA Regional Office. You may also email
NEP@dhs.gov.