

# Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Programs Core Capabilities Tool Companion Document

The purpose of this document is to highlight information pertinent to the Citizen Corps and CERT programs and describe key features of the Citizen Corps and CERT Core Capability Tool to assist the programs with defining their core capabilities and finding available resources.

## CORE CAPABILITIES

- [Presidential Policy Directive 8 \(PPD-8\)](#) describes the Nation's approach to national preparedness.
- The [National Preparedness Goal \(NPG\)](#) identifies the Nation's most essential preparedness capabilities, its **core capabilities**, and organizes them into five mission areas: **Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery**.
  - **Prevention** includes those capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism. It is focused on ensuring we are optimally prepared to prevent an imminent terrorist attack within the United States.
  - **Protection** includes capabilities to safeguard the homeland against acts of terrorism and man-made or natural disasters. It is focused on actions to protect the citizens, residents, visitors, and critical assets, systems, and networks against the greatest risks to our Nation in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive. We will create conditions for a safer, more secure, and more resilient Nation by enhancing Protection through cooperation and collaboration with all sectors of society.
  - **Mitigation** includes those capabilities necessary to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. It is focused on the premise that individuals, the private sector, communities, critical infrastructure, and the Nation as a whole are made more resilient when the consequences and impacts, the duration, and the financial and human costs to respond to and recover from adverse incidents are all reduced.
  - **Response** includes those capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred. It is focused on ensuring that the Nation is able to effectively respond to any threat or hazard, including those with cascading effects, with an emphasis on saving and sustaining lives and stabilizing the incident, as well as rapidly meeting basic human needs, restoring basic services and community functionality, establishing a safe and secure environment, and supporting the transition to recovery.
  - **Recovery** includes those capabilities necessary to assist communities affected by an incident in recovering effectively. It is focused on a timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of the infrastructure; housing; a sustainable economy; and the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

- A working group of State and local Citizen Corps program managers organized by the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division developed the **Citizen Corps and CERT Core Capabilities Tool** that maps out all of the core capabilities identified by the National Preparedness Goal, and highlights those relevant to Citizen Corps and CERT.
  - For every relevant core capability a (1) definition of the capability from the National Preparedness Goal, (2) description of how Citizen Corps supports it, and (3) concrete examples are provided.
  - The tool includes a whole community toolkit for each relevant core capability. This toolkit is a list of individual and community preparedness resources that may be helpful for jurisdictions to build and sustain core capabilities.
  - The core capabilities **relevant** to the Citizen Corps and CERT programs are highlighted below.

Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
<b>Planning</b>				
<b>Public Information and Warning</b>				
<b>Operational Coordination</b>				
Forensics and Attribution <b>Intelligence and Information Sharing</b> Interdiction and Disruption Screening, Search, and Detection	Access Control and Identity Verification <b>Cybersecurity</b> Intelligence and Information Sharing Interdiction and Disruption <b>Physical Protective Measures</b> Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities Screening, Search, and Detection Supply Chain Integrity and Security	<b>Community Resilience</b> <b>Long-term Vulnerability Reduction</b> <b>Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment</b> <b>Threats and Hazard Identification</b>	<b>Critical Transportation</b> <b>Environmental Response/Health and Safety</b> Fatality Management Services Infrastructure Systems <b>Mass Care Services</b> <b>Mass Search and Rescue Operations</b> On-scene Security and Protection <b>Operational Communications</b> <b>Public and Private Services and Resources</b> <b>Public Health and Medical Services</b> <b>Situational Assessment</b>	<b>Economic Recovery</b> <b>Health and Social Services</b> Housing Infrastructure Systems Natural and Cultural Resources

## THREAT and HAZARD IDENTIFICATION and RISK ASSESSMENT

- The **Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)** guidance provides a common, consistent approach for identifying and assessing risks and associated impacts. The THIRA guidance will expand on existing state, territorial, tribal, and local hazard identification and risk assessments. ([Backgrounder](#), [Guide](#), and [Toolkit](#))
- To be effective, the THIRA process requires the participation of the whole community to share information, account for population-specific factors, and understand the initial and cascading effects of a threat or hazard.
- Analysis of the THIRA results will guide future preparedness efforts across all mission areas. **THIRA results may also be used by States and Urban Areas to assess shortfalls and apply grant funds to build and sustain core capabilities.** The analysis can also be used to educate individuals, families, businesses, organizations, and executive leaders on the risks facing a community and on their roles in preparedness.
- The THIRA process entails not only identifying threats and hazards of greatest concern and their potential consequences, but also determining to what level the core capabilities must be delivered to meet the demands of those potential consequences. These levels are captured as desired outcomes and associated capability targets. Following the THIRA process, the capability targets are used to estimate the required resources required to deliver the capability to the needed level, identify existing resources to meet that need, and develop a list of shortfalls, sufficiencies, and shortfalls to inform strategic planning.
- The steps of the THIRA process include:
  - **Step 1**—Identify potential threats and hazards of concern.
  - **Step 2**—Give the threats and hazards context by describing the situations in which they might occur.
  - **Step 3**—Work with community partners to assess the impacts of specific threats and hazards on the community, determine the desired outcome for each core capability (e.g., for the long-term vulnerability reduction core capability, a desired outcome might be to achieve a measurable decrease in the long-term vulnerability of critical infrastructure and systems.
  - **Step 4**—Set at least one capability target for each core capability. These capability targets are based on the greatest estimated impact of a threat or hazard, coupled with desired outcomes (e.g., if there are 100 employees in a building on fire, and the desired outcome is to have all employees evacuated within 3 minutes, then the target capability is to evacuate 100 within 3 minutes). These targets served as the basis for the 2012 **State Preparedness Report (SPR)** capability assessment.
  - **Step 5**—Apply the results to your community’s threat and hazard identification and risk assessment efforts by determining where you stand in your ability to deliver core capabilities to the levels set by the capability targets and then developing a strategic plan to address shortfalls.

- Building from the results of a THIRA, communities can examine current capability levels through the lenses of real-world incidents, assessments, and exercises to determine whether changes to current capability levels are warranted. This process of comparing current and required capability levels will identify shortfalls the community may choose to address.
- The Citizen Corps and CERT Core Capabilities Tool can be used to help Citizen Corps and CERT programs demonstrate how they provide resources, expertise, and knowledge that will help a community to meet its target capabilities, per THIRA.