



FEMA

Get Involved in the National Exercise Program

What is the National Exercise Program (NEP)?

The National Exercise Program (NEP) is a two-year cycle of exercises across the nation that examines and validates capabilities in all preparedness mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. FEMA's National Exercise Division manages the NEP.

Why Participate in the NEP?



Receive technical assistance and support throughout design, development, conduct, and evaluation of your exercises from experienced exercise specialists.



Pursue new exercise ideas and broaden the impact of your exercises to a wider group of stakeholders.



Access exercise templates, tools, and other resources to help you design, conduct, and evaluate your exercises.



Influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise findings.

How Does the NEP Work?

- ▶ Local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government agencies and their private, nonprofit, or other whole community partners can participate in the NEP.
- ▶ Exercises can be discussion-based (e.g., seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises, games) or operations-based (e.g., drills, functional exercises, full-scale exercises).
- ▶ All exercises submitted to the NEP will be considered; however, support is dependent upon resource availability and a strong nomination package.
- ▶ Exercises in the NEP contribute evaluation data to the National Preparedness System to provide a clearer picture of the nation's readiness.

How Do I Request Exercise Support?



Principals' Strategic Priorities

The two-year NEP cycle is guided by the Principals' Strategic Priorities (PSP), set by the Principals Committee of the National Security Council. The 2021–2022 NEP cycle priorities are based on preparedness data, lessons learned from past experiences and real-world incidents, strategy and policy documents and capability assessments from partners across the nation.

2021–2022 PRINCIPALS' STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Examine the capabilities of all levels of government and the private sector to operationalize plans that ensure continuity of essential functions and the resilience of critical services during an incident where key personnel, facilities, or systems are directly or indirectly impacted.



CYBERSECURITY

Strengthen coordination on cybersecurity prevention, protection, response, mitigation and recovery roles and responsibilities across all levels of government and the private sector—and between cyber/information technology professionals and those in leadership, emergency management, continuity, operations and other functions—to improve the cybersecurity capabilities of the whole community.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Examine the capabilities of public, private and nonprofit partners to identify critical economic recovery issues and strategies that support outcome-driven recovery, such as identifying interdependencies between the public and private sectors to build short-term economic relief and establishing long-term economic resilience for communities and jurisdictions.



NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCIES AND CATASTROPHIC INCIDENTS

Examine the nation's capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate and/or recover from the threat or impact of a catastrophic incident that seriously degrades or threatens the national security of the United States, such as conducting intelligence and information sharing activities; identifying and deconflicting roles, responsibilities and authorities, including within the White House process of governance; coordinating decision-making; and prioritizing and mobilizing scarce resources.



OPERATIONAL COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Examine the capabilities of public, private and nonprofit partners to implement appropriate coordination and communication structures for incident management, such as conducting intelligence and information sharing; assessing the situation; establishing an incident command structure and decision-making process; ensuring interoperable communications; adapting plans; maintaining a common operating picture; and conducting effective public messaging.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE EMERGENCIES

Examine the capabilities of all levels of government and the private sector to detect and manage naturally occurring or intentional infectious disease events or other emergencies with public health and healthcare implications, such as leveraging community education; applying medical and nonmedical countermeasures; coordinating among public health, health care, emergency management, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations to integrate effective surveillance measures; rapidly communicating with external partners and the public; sustaining economic and business operations; establishing border controls; and sustaining healthcare and social services.



SHELTERING AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Examine the capabilities of the whole community to effectively implement locally executed, state-managed and federally supported outcome-driven sheltering and housing solutions that streamline survivors' progress through all recovery phases, including populations with disabilities and other access and functional needs.



STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION OF COMMUNITY LIFELINES

Examine the capabilities of public, private and nonprofit partners to stabilize and restore community lifelines, such as determining severity of incident impact, particularly on critical infrastructure and supply chains; identifying limiting factors to addressing impacts; and quickly prioritizing and mobilizing resources that alleviate threats to life or property and facilitate recovery.