

Welcome to the National Exercise Program
Overview Webinar!

**Audio for all participants is provided
through the conference line:**

1 - 800 - 320 - 4330

PIN: 5 5 9 5 5 0

National Exercise Program Overview

National Exercise Division

February 2021

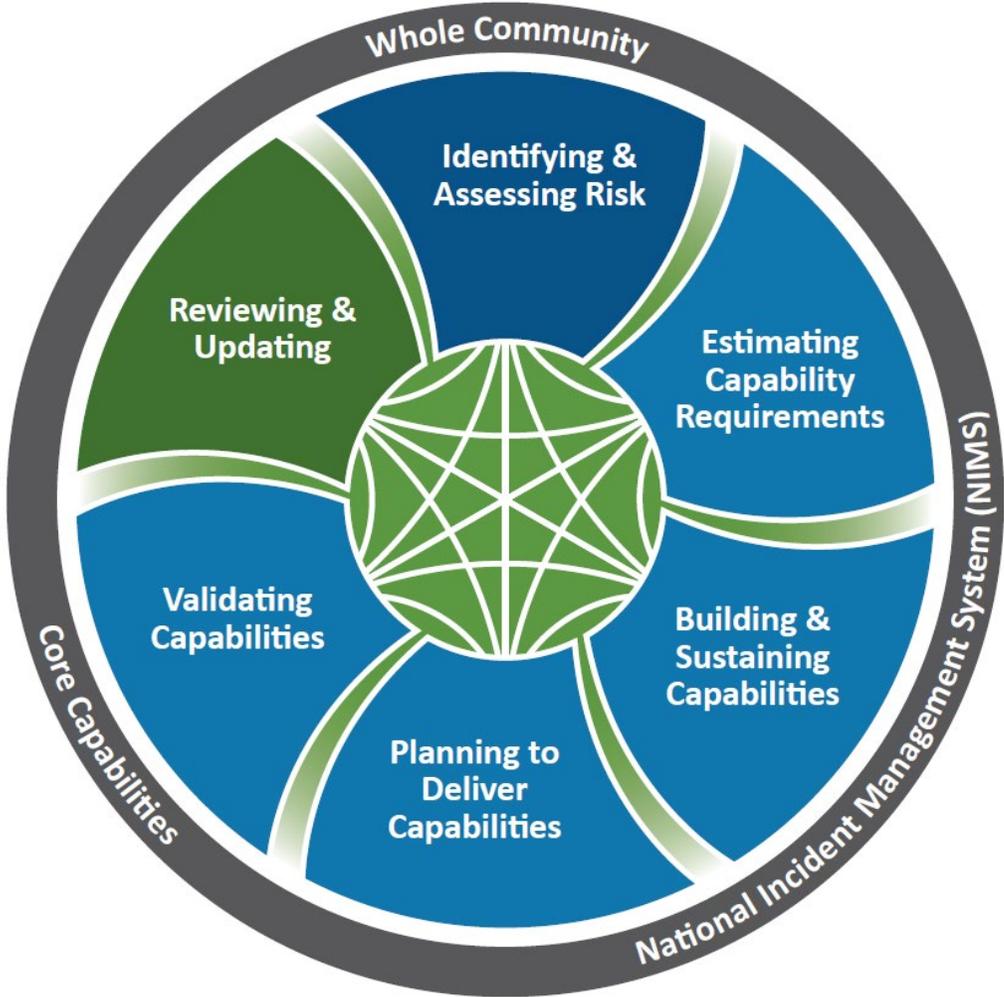


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NATIONAL
EXERCISE
PROGRAM



National Preparedness System Overview



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The National Exercise Program (NEP)



- The NEP is a national-level mechanism to validate core capabilities across all mission areas; its two-year cycle of exercises culminates in a National-Level Exercise (NLE)
- Each cycle is guided by **Principals' Strategic Priorities (PSP)** set by the Principals Committee of the National Security Council
- Priorities are **driven by data** through the **National Preparedness System**, including
 - The National Preparedness Report (NPR)
 - Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)
 - Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)
 - After-action reports (AARs)
 - Other preparedness data



Benefits of Participating in the NEP



Receive technical assistance and support for your exercises from dedicated exercise design and delivery experts



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



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



Influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise evaluation data



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Exercise Delivery during COVID-19

- Discussion-based exercise deliveries use **current and approved virtual platforms and interactive technology** such as Adobe, Microsoft Teams and WebEx
- Planning for virtual, discussion-based exercise deliveries follows current HSEEP methodology and is condensed in some instances to support Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacted sponsors
- NED is currently scoping operations-based exercises that focus on the use of **PrepToolKit's design, development and delivery capabilities**, coupled with a jurisdiction's common operating picture capabilities (e.g., WebEOC)
- NED provides limited on-scene support for exercise control and evaluation during operations-based exercises; the sponsor and participating agencies/departments coordinate control and evaluation roles

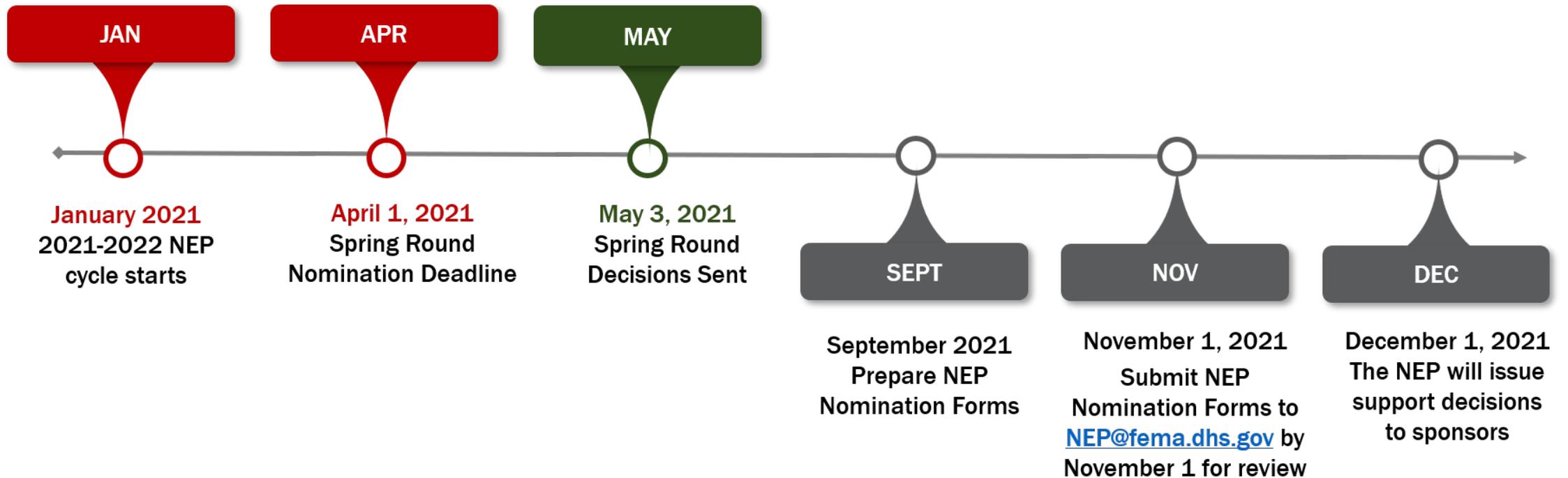


National Exercise Program Nomination Process



2021–2022 Nomination Timeline

- The National Exercise Division accepts nominations for exercise support through the NEP **twice a year**:



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What Makes a Good NEP Nomination

Do:

- ✓ Tie your exercise to plans and corrective actions that will be examined/validated by the exercise
- ✓ Engage a broad spectrum of participants
- ✓ Show how the exercise closes capability gaps identified in your SPR
- ✓ Explain how support from NED will make the exercise more successful
- ✓ Coordinate with your state and regional exercise officers

Don't:

- × Submit an exercise series or multiple exercise support requests on one nomination form
- × Indicate that your exercise address every PSP
- × Select all 32 core capabilities
- × Propose an exercise or request support previously provided by the NEP
- × Use an old version of the Nomination Form
- × Submit a nomination too close to the exercise conduct date



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FEMA's Regional Exercise Officers

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2021–2022 NEP Nomination Form Walkthrough

- www.fema.gov/NEP



NATIONAL EXERCISE PROGRAM

**National Exercise Program
2021–2022 Nomination Form**

Instructions

The [National Exercise Program](#) (NEP) provides opportunities for state, local, tribal, territorial, federal, and other whole community partners to contribute to the [National Preparedness Goal](#) of building a secure and resilient nation. Findings from whole community exercises are used to directly inform national preparedness efforts to include in the National Preparedness Report. The purpose of this form is to request support from the National Exercise Division for your exercise. If you have questions related to this form, contact the National Exercise Division at NEP@fema.dhs.gov.

1. Sponsor Information

Exercise Sponsor Organization(s)	Sponsor Type	Select ▼
Lead Sponsor Information		Secondary Sponsor Information
POC Full Name	POC Full Name	
POC Phone Number	POC Phone Number	
POC Email Address	POC Email Address	

2. Scope

Exercise Name		
Exercise Type	Exercise Level	Classification
Select ▼	Select ▼	Select ▼

Check all qualities/characteristics that apply to this exercise:

<input type="checkbox"/> Will examine completed plans <input type="checkbox"/> Will validate draft plans <input type="checkbox"/> Will examine corrective actions from past real-world events or exercises <input type="checkbox"/> Included in your Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Supports your THIRA/SPR or Organizational Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Federally funded <small>List all federal grants and funding sources for this exercise:</small> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Required by senior official directive, law, or an executive order <input type="checkbox"/> Planned as part of an exercise series <small>Provide the full exercise series name:</small> <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>
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<p>Synopsis: Provide a brief, high-level description of the exercise, including any initial objectives that you want to address.</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 80px;" type="text"/>	<p>Purpose: Explain the plans and/or corrective actions from past exercises or real-world events to be examined. Please submit supporting documentation (e.g., any draft or completed plans, the AAR or Improvement Plan) with your nomination.</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 80px;" type="text"/>
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Threat/Hazard	Select ▼	Select ▼
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FEMA Form 008-0-27 OMB Collection Number 1660-0118
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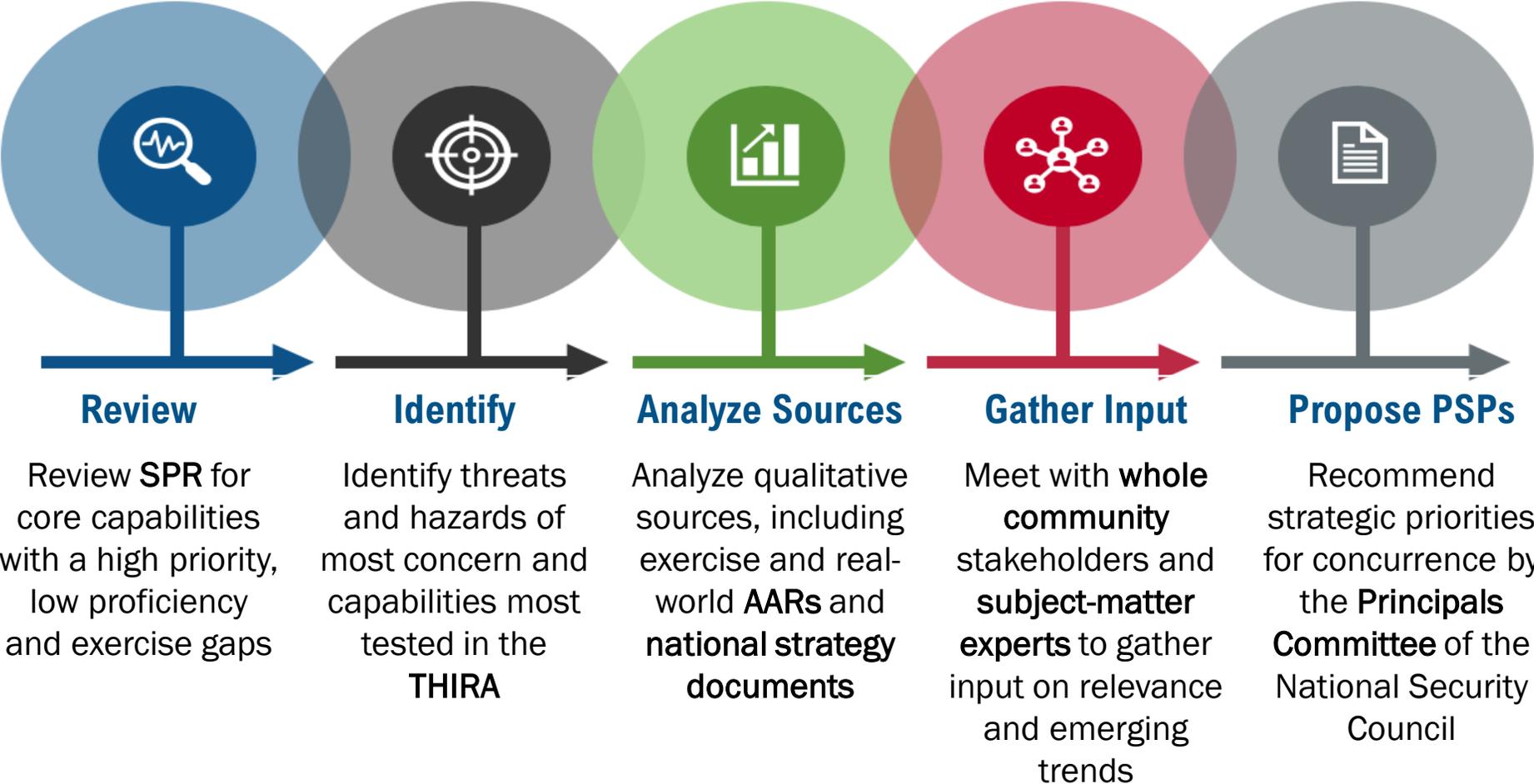
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National Exercise Program

2021–2022 Principals' Strategic Priorities



Principals' Strategic Priorities Development Process



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COVID-19 and the PSP Report Development Process

- As the 2021–2022 PSPs were under development, COVID-19 was declared a **public health emergency** by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II
- The 2021–2022 PSP Report incorporates **initial lessons learned from COVID-19 response** gathered through the stakeholder engagement process
- The NEP will continue to review outcomes from COVID-19 response and potentially refine the scope mid-cycle, if necessary





Continuity of Essential Functions

Cybersecurity

Economic Recovery and Resilience

National Security Emergencies and Catastrophic Incidents

Operational Coordination and Communication

Public Health and Healthcare Emergencies

Sheltering and Housing Solutions

Stabilization and Restoration of Community Lifelines



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Cybersecurity, Community Resilience, Economic Recovery, Operational Coordination, Planning, Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities





Continuity of Essential Functions

Why is this Important?

Continuity provides a plan for the whole community to sustain services and functions when normal operations are disrupted, whether from manmade or natural incidents or disasters

- Continuity testing, training and exercising among the whole community helps delineate roles and responsibilities and deconflict procedural, resource and personnel issues, according to the Continuity Guidance Circular
- Presidential Policy Directive 40 (PPD-40) requires the U.S. to **maintain a comprehensive and effective continuity capability**
- The FEMA 2018–2022 Strategic Plan encourages an increase in the percent of states and territories with continuity plans and programs

Spotlight:

Federal Mission Resilience Strategy (FMRS)

As federal continuity policy shifts to focus on distributed risk and capability through the FMRS, departments and agencies must become more resilient against all threats and conditions, ranging from kinetic (e.g., conventional military force, active warfare) to nonkinetic threats (e.g., cyber, pandemic, natural disasters)



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Cybersecurity, Planning, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Coordination, Public Information and Warning, Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities

Cybersecurity

Why is this Important?

As organizations increasingly rely on cyber systems, they are encountering more complex threats with cross-sector impacts, necessitating a more involved and collaborative response to incidents

- Highlighting cybersecurity as a national threat, NLE 2020 focused on **complex, multidimensional cyberattacks**
- The NLE 2020 Cyber Workshop Series survey reported **63%** of respondents' communities **have not developed cyber incident response plans**, and **47% have not conducted a cyber exercise for their organization**
- The Verizon Breach Report identified **3,950** confirmed breaches across **81 organizations** spanning all **16** critical infrastructure sectors

Spotlight:

Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Exercises

Provides training and exercise resources including discussion- and operations-based exercises for the federal government, SLTT organizations and the private sector to support partners in examining their cybersecurity plans and procedures. CISA makes available a free Federal Virtual Training environment.



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Economic Recovery, Health and Social Services, Operational Coordination, Planning, Natural and Cultural Resources

Economic Recovery and Resilience

Why is this Important?

A focus on economic recovery allows governments at all levels, as well as private sector and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, to identify critical economic recovery issues and strategize outcome-driven recovery

- According to the 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, jurisdictions directed the **least amount of preparedness grant funds** to the Recovery mission area between 2013–2019
- The 2018–2022 FEMA Strategic Plan encourages disaster recovery coordinators to have a plan in place based on National Disaster Recovery Framework principles
- A strong understanding of economic resilience informs capacity-building strategies, including supporting intrinsic community functions that are critical for absorbing, rebounding from and adapting to hazard risks

Spotlight:
2019 THIRA/SPR Analysis of Economic Recovery

The Economic Recovery core capability remains infrequently exercised. 2019 THIRA/SPR data shows that 76 percent of states and territories reported low confidence in the assessment of their ability to meet the Economic Recovery core capability's Reopen Business target



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Coordination, Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment, Supply Chain Integrity and Security, Threat and Hazard Identification

National Security Emergencies and Catastrophic Incidents

Why is this Important?

The scale, magnitude and impact of this priority warrants extensive, well-coordinated efforts across stakeholder groups to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from catastrophic disasters

- The 2019 Shaken Fury exercise highlighted the difficulty of **assessing resource needs and synchronizing deployments** across a large area with competing demands during a catastrophic incident
- The COVID-19 pandemic **revealed vulnerabilities** in the commercial supply chain for critical resources manufactured overseas
- “Catastrophic incidents” in this PSP’s name highlights the need to hold exercises that examine what the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act describes as “any natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other manmade disaster that results in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage or disruption severely affecting the population.”

2019 National THIRA Most Challenging Scenarios

1. Cascadia and San Andreas Earthquake Scenario
2. New Madrid Earthquake Scenario
3. Texas Hurricane Scenario
4. Florida Hurricane Scenario
5. Hawaii Hurricane Scenario
6. Pandemic Scenario
7. Space Weather Scenario



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Communications, Operational Coordination, Public Information and Warning

Operational Coordination and Communications

Why is this Important?

Operational coordination and communications present significant challenges to maintaining proficiency and adapting to new incidents, demonstrating the continued need of this priority

- Capabilities related to this priority are often ranked by states and territories as **high priority with a high percentage of exercise gaps**
- 2019–2020 NEP AARs identified the need for **strong relationships** across the whole community and the need to more **effectively manage information sharing** among stakeholder groups
- The COVID-19 response emphasizes the need for diverse stakeholders to come together, adapt plans, ensure situational awareness, share information and make coordinated decisions

NEP AARs from 2019 demonstrate significant numbers of areas for improvement that align with three main capabilities under this PSP





Principals' Strategic Priority

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, healthcare, 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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Fatality Management Services, Health and Social Services, Interdiction and Disruption, Operational Coordination, Planning, Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services, Public Information and Warning

Public Health and Healthcare Emergencies

Why is this Important?

The COVID-19 pandemic is the first incident to trigger major disaster declarations for all 50 states, providing a real-world test of the nation's capabilities to manage a public health emergency

- Since 2016, state and territory THIRA submissions identified **pandemics as the second or third most commonly selected threat or hazard** of greatest concern
- The 2020 NPR indicates difficulty in estimating pandemic preparedness due to the numerous capabilities a pandemic can stress
- The 2019 THIRA/SPR reports that 62% of states and territories have an **exercise gap for the Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services** core capability, up from 36% in 2017 and 53% in 2018

Spotlight:

COVID-19 Emergency Management Best Practices

In support of whole community partners, FEMA compiled best practices and lessons learned, including community innovations, government operations, recovery planning and implementation, and medical supplies and equipment. This online repository can be found at <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/best-practices>.



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Community Resilience, Housing, Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction, Operational Coordination, Planning

Sheltering and Housing Solutions

Why is this Important?

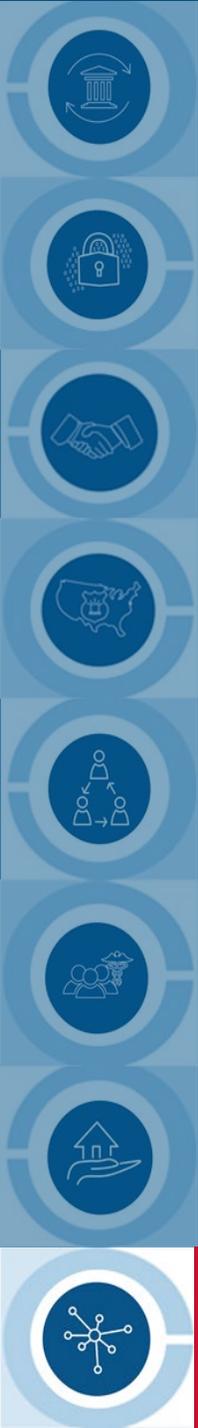
This priority emphasizes critical assessment of community housing resilience and community population vulnerability to prevent displaced survivors following a disaster and provide a continuum of housing solutions

- 2019 THIRA/SPR data highlighted significant gaps for housing-related capabilities, including Community Sheltering and Long-Term Housing
- The 2018–2022 Strategic Plan prioritizes the need for impacted SLTT governments to **develop housing solutions** and **drive their own recoveries**
- The Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Harvey AARs demonstrate that **awareness of housing opportunities** and **impacts to the provision of disaster housing** continues to be a challenge for SLTT jurisdictions

Spotlight:

2019 FEMA Incident Stabilization Guide

The 2019 FEMA Incident Stabilization Guide emphasizes using dashboards to provide immediate understanding of the status of stabilization objectives, such as sheltering operations. The guide also highlights using dashboard data to assist with temporary housing solutions



Principals' Strategic Priority

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.

Highlighted Core Capabilities:

Critical Transportation, Infrastructure Systems, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction, Mass Care Services, Situational Assessment

Stabilization and Restoration of Community Lifelines

Why is this Important?

This priority emphasizes how SLTT jurisdictions prioritize lifesaving and life-sustaining lifeline systems immediately following an incident and how all available resources are leveraged through public, private and nonprofit partnerships to stabilize and restore those lifelines

- The 2019 NPR identified that the Community Lifelines construct enhances scalable response across all levels of government and NGOs
- The 2019 THIRA/SPR reports **three large exercise gaps** and **low confidence ratings** that span community lifelines: Life Sustaining Goods Delivery, Evacuation, and Situation Briefings
- 2019–2020 NEP exercises focused primarily on the Response mission area, missing the opportunity to examine Recovery capabilities related to restoration

Spotlight:

2019–2020 NEP AAR Lifelines Findings:

- Identify agreed-upon terminology and meaning of response and restoration resources
- Strengthen collaboration to improve the processes to communicate, prioritize and deploy resources
- Continue to develop situation reports by collecting analyzed, relevant information in a short timeframe

Q&A

National Exercise Program





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