

Exercise's mission is to coordinate with Federal, State, Local, and private industries and conduct exercises ensuring safety and compliance with all applicable rules and regulations

National Exercise Program (NEP)

The National Strategy for Homeland Security directed the establishment of a National Exercise Strategy. Homeland Security Presidential Directive #8 (HSPD 8) directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish a 'National Exercise Program' (NEP). ODP was tasked to develop a program that identifies and integrates national level exercise activities to ensure those activities serve the broadest community of learning.

State Exercise Program: The state goal is to have a balanced approach to an all-hazards exercise program. State agencies and counties will determine the most at risk hazards and focus their efforts on exercising existing plans and procedures. The Alabama Emergency Operations Plan (AEOP), The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness (CSEPP) and The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan (REP) and associated Standard Operating Guides (SOGs) will each be exercised on an annual basis. FEMA conducts and evaluates the CSEPP and REP Plans and SOGs in accordance with those programs guidance.

The AEOP will be exercised in a Tabletop Exercise at least annually will address the specific hazards that are outlined in the plan. The exercise will be conducted using the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Guidance.

Hurricane Preparedness: In the wake of Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis and Katrina, the state has entered a period of increased hurricane preparedness. The Governor and key cabinet members participate in a workshop that identifies strategic issues that state agencies and counties focus on for response and recovery using the AEOP. The State Emergency Operations Center will conduct a Tabletop exercise that implements the AEOP hurricane annexes and operational SOGs. Regional EMA workshops are conducted that further take these issues to a tactical level and provide a forum for elected officials, first responders, medical and EMA to identify common issues and solutions. Response and Recovery Workshops are conducted to provide orientations to new county directors and refreshers for other county staff. These workshops also include state and federal partners, and they focus on local, state and federal plans and procedures. Regional Mutual Aid Teams exercises provide the ability to implement the Incident Command System, Communications Interoperability and Mobilization procedures. Individual team members are evaluated based on their training, skills, abilities and level of experience.

WMD Preparedness: State agencies and counties will conduct exercises on an annual basis using a WMD Scenario. These exercises will be conducted using the HSEEP program. Individuals will be tested using their skills, abilities and level of experience while exercising written plans and procedures.

Other Hazards: Exercises will be conducted based upon the risk. These exercises will be conducted based on Federal program guidance and frequency requirements. The exercises will focus on testing individuals' skills, abilities, and levels of experience while exercising written plans and procedures.

National Preparedness Guidelines

The National Preparedness Guide provides information on how to implement the all-hazards National Preparedness Goal, that establishes measurable priorities, targets, standards for preparedness assessments and strategies, and a system for assessing the overall level of preparedness.

The Interim Goal is to encourage Federal, State, Local and Tribal entities, their private and non-governmental partners and the general public to achieve and sustain risk-based target levels of capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from major events in order to minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy. (See National Preparedness Guidance, HSPD 8, <http://www.hseep.dhs.gov>)

National Priorities

Overarching Priorities

1. Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan
2. Expand Regional Collaboration
3. Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Program

Capability-Specific Priorities

1. Strengthen information sharing and collaboration Capabilities
2. Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities
3. Strengthen CBRNE Detection, Response, and Decontamination Capabilities
4. Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities
5. Strengthen Emergency Operations Planning and Citizen Protection Capabilities

Universal Task List

Nationally representative teams identified tasks required by each scenario. These tasks have been combined into a comprehensive menu called the Universal Task List (UTL). The UTL is designed to serve as a common language and reference system, as the

foundation for learning and exercise objectives, as a tool for operational planning, and for use in evaluations and assessments of performance. Tasks are identified that need to be performed by all levels of government and a variety of disciplines for an incident of national significance. **No single jurisdiction or agency is expected to perform every task.** Rather, subsets of tasks will be selected based on specific roles, missions, and functions. Version 2.1 of the UTL contains approximately 5,800 tasks encompassing all levels of government and disciplines from the national strategic to the incident level.

Target Capabilities List

Version 1.1 of the Target Capabilities List provides a list and description of the capabilities needed to perform critical homeland security tasks. Critical tasks are defined as those that must be performed during a major event to prevent occurrence, reduce loss of life or serious injuries, mitigate significant property damage, or are essential to the success of a homeland security mission. Approximately 300 tasks are currently identified as critical.

The following is a list of the 36 Target Capabilities that are grouped according to Mission Area in Version 2.1 of the Target Capabilities List:

Common Tasks-Target Capabilities

Planning
Interoperable Communications

Prevent Mission Area-Target Capabilities

Information Collection and Threat Recognition
Intelligence Fusion and Analysis
Information Sharing and Collaboration
Terrorism Investigation and Apprehension
CBRNE Detection

Protect Mission Area-Target Capabilities

Risk Analysis
Critical Infrastructure Protection
Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense
Public Health Epidemiological Investigation and Laboratory Testing
Citizen Preparedness and Participation

Respond Mission Area-Target Capabilities

On-Site Incident Management
Emergency Operations Center Management
Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution
Volunteer Management and Donations
Worker Health and Safety
Public Safety and Security Response
Firefighting Operations/Support

WMD Hazardous Incident Response and Decontamination
Explosive Device Response Operations
Animal Health Emergency Support
Environmental Health and Vector Control
Citizen Protection: Evacuation and/or In-Place Protection
Isolation and Quarantine
Search and Rescue
Emergency Public Information and Warning
Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment
Medical Surge
Medical Supplies Management and Distribution
Mass Prophylaxis
Mass Care (Sheltering, Feeding, and Related Services)
Fatality Management

Recover Mission Area-Target Capabilities

Structural Damage Assessment and Mitigation
Restoration of Lifelines
Economic and Community Recovery

Exercise Program

Types of Exercises;

- Discussion Based Exercises
 - Seminars are instructional sessions employed to orient participants.
 - Workshops are meetings in which a facilitator guides a group to a conclusion.

 - Tabletop Exercises are designed to test the adequacy of plans, policies, procedures, training, resources and relationships or agreements.
 - Games are simulations of operations that involve two or more teams.

- Operations Based Exercises
 - Functional Exercises are designed to test one or more functional elements and determine if the plans and procedures are adequate and a capability exists to respond to a particular event.
 - Full-Scale Exercises test a community total capability to implement plans and procedures

Exercise Programs

The following are the different exercise programs that are managed by AEMA;

1. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Planning Program (CSEPP)
2. The Radiological Emergency Program (REP)

3. The Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation (HSEEP)
4. The Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP)
5. The Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Program (HMEP)
6. The Dam Safety Program
 - a) Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Dam Safety Program
 - b) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Dam Safety Program
 - c) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Dam Safety Program
7. The Natural Hazards Program
 - a) Hurricanes
 - b) Tornadoes
 - c) Flooding
 - d) Winter storms
 - e) Drought
 - f) Earthquakes
 - g) Tsunamis

There are other exercises that are conducted in cooperation with other agencies, such as the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), Governor and Key Cabinet Members, State Emergency Operations Center, Response and Recovery Workshops, etc.

Program Standards and Reports

1. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Planning Program (CSEPP) (U. S. DHS/FEMA)
www.fema.gov
 - FEMA CSEPP Exercise Standards and Guidelines (The Blue Book)
 - Reports provided by FEMA
 - After Actions Reports/Improvement Plans provided by State and Counties
2. The Radiological Emergency Program (REP) (U.S. DHS/FEMA)
www.fema.gov
 - FEMA REP Interim Program Guidance
 - Reports provided by FEMA
 - After Actions Reports/Improvement Plans provided by State and Counties
3. The Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) (U.S.DHS/FEMA)
<http://www.hseep.dhs.gov>
 - a. Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Volumes I-IV
 - Volume I-Overview and Doctrine
 - Volume II-Exercise Evaluation and Improvement
 - Volume III- Exercise Program Management and Exercise Planning Process

- Volume IV-Sample Exercise Documents and Formats
 - Reports and After Actions Reports provided by State and Counties
 - Prevention Exercises provides an overview of prevention exercises, information on the Terrorism Prevention Exercise Program (TPEP), and guidance and instruction on how to plan, conduct, and evaluate a prevention-focused exercise using standard HSEEP methodology.
4. The Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) (U.S. DOE)
www.energy.gov
 - Department of Energy Exercise Standards
 - Reports provided by Department of Energy
 - After Actions Reports provided by State and Counties
 5. The Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Program (HMEP)(U.S. DOT)
www.hazmat.dot.gov/training/state/hmep
 - U.S. Department of Transportation –Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Guide
 - Reports and After Actions Reports provided by Counties
 6. The Dam Safety Program (U.S. FERC) www.ferc.gov
 - Federal Energy Commission Emergency Action Plan Guidelines
 - Reports provided by FERC
 - After Actions Reports provided by State and Counties
 7. The Natural Hazards Program (U.S. DHS/FEMA) www.fema.gov
 - FEMA Exercise Guidelines
 - Reports and After Actions Reports provided by State and Counties
 8. The Lessons Learned Information Site Web-site (www.llis.gov) provides insight into valuable lessons learned and after action reports from all levels of government.