

FACT SHEET



Homeland Security

A Common Approach to Preparedness: The National Preparedness Goal

Terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies respect neither political nor geographic boundaries. To deal with major events effectively requires a national preparedness system that makes clear the roles and missions of entities at all levels, strengthens preparedness partnerships, establishes performance objectives and measures, and directs the allocation of resources and prioritization of investments. A major milestone in building this national preparedness system is the Interim National Preparedness Goal (the Goal). The Goal will transform the way we think about preparedness by defining *capabilities* that must be in place, at appropriate levels, to prevent and respond to current and future threats and hazards. The Goal establishes measurable targets and priorities to guide the Nation's planning, and provides a systematic approach for determining how prepared we are, how prepared we need to be, and how we should prioritize efforts to close the gap.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8: *National Preparedness* (HSPD-8) calls for an all-hazards **National Preparedness Goal** that establishes measurable priorities, targets, and a common approach to developing needed capabilities.

Capabilities-Based Planning

The Goal utilizes a Capabilities-Based Planning approach: planning, under uncertainty, to provide capabilities suitable for a wide range of threats and hazards, within an economic framework that necessitates prioritization and choice. Capabilities-Based Planning addresses uncertainty by analyzing a wide range of possible scenarios to identify required capabilities. The Capabilities-Based Planning tools and products are:

- **National Planning Scenarios**: Planning documents that provide parameters for 15 terrorist attacks and natural disasters, providing the basis to define prevention, protection, response and recovery tasks, and the capabilities required to perform them.
- **Universal Task List**: A reference tool that provides a comprehensive menu of tasks to be performed by different disciplines at all levels of government to address major events.
- **Target Capabilities List**: A list and description of the capabilities needed to perform critical homeland security tasks found in the Universal Task List.

National Preparedness Goal Vision:

“To engage 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.”

The National Priorities

The National Preparedness Goal also includes seven **national priorities**. The national priorities are: Implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Plan (NRP), Expanded Regional Collaboration, Implement the Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan, Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities, Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities, Strengthen CBRNE Detection, Response and Decontamination Capabilities, and Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities. Efforts to achieve these seven priorities will not only address essential needs in the near-term, they will also reinforce national efforts to achieve the target capabilities that are imperative to national preparedness for the longer-term.

For more information, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/assessments/hspd8.htm>
The Planning Tools are available at the secure sites <https://odp.esportals.com> and <http://www.llis.gov>