



# National Infrastructure Protection Plan

## Emergency Services Sector

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) identified 17 critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) sectors and designated Federal Government Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs) for each of the sectors. Each sector is responsible for developing and submitting Sector-Specific Plans and sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable national cross-sector CI/KR protection program gap assessments. The SSA is responsible for collaborating with private sector security partners and encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms within the sector.

### Sector Overview

The Emergency Services Sector (ESS) is a system of response and recovery elements that forms the Nation's first line of defense and prevention and reduction of consequences from any terrorist attack. It is a sector of trained and tested personnel, plans, redundant systems, agreements, and pacts that provide life safety and security services across the Nation via the First-Responder Community comprised of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private partners.

The ESS is representative of the following first-responder disciplines: emergency management, emergency medical services, fire, hazardous material, law enforcement, bomb squads, tactical operations/special weapons assault teams, and search and rescue. All first-responders within the ESS are individuals possessing specialized training from one or more of these disciplines.

The ESS has numerous interdependencies with all CI/KR sectors. Most significantly, it is the primary protector for all other CI/KR, including nuclear reactors, chemical plants, and dams. All other CI/KR depend on the ESS to assist with

planning, prevention, and mitigation activities, as well as respond to day-to-day incidents and catastrophic situations.

### Sector Partnerships

SSAs are responsible for working with DHS to implement the NIPP sector partnership model and risk management framework, develop protective programs and related requirements, and provide sector-level CI/KR protection guidance in line with the overarching guidance established by DHS pursuant to HSPD-7.

The ESS SSA engages stakeholders and coordinates ESS initiatives through the existing network of sector associations that extend to the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions, the DHS/Office of State and Local Coordination, and the DHS/Office of Grants and Training. Additionally, the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) serves as a principal mode to coordinate sector plans and collect and share information with the ESS and other sectors.

## CI/KR Protection Issues

Within the ESS there are four overarching infrastructure systems that are critical to the execution of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private response and recovery efforts:

- **Multi-Agency Coordination Systems** are a culmination of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private organization or agency efforts to provide coordination of services, resource acquisition, resource prioritization, and statewide public information.
- **Mutual-Aid Systems** consist of agreements between government and non-government agencies, and the personnel who request or respond to requests, as well as the communications systems used for jurisdictional exchanges.
- **Command-Control-Cyber-Intelligence-Information Technology Systems** facilitate multi-incident coordination; public information dissemination; interoperability; personnel/management command pathways; resource acquisition; and emergency services, intelligence, and crisis/consequence communications-sharing networks.
- **Specialized Emergency Response Systems** consist of personnel, plans, and equipment at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels to provide concise functions for public health and safety and national security and to possess specialized equipment caches for these services.

The destruction, degradation, outside control, or limitation of these systems could significantly impact the ability of the ESS at a national level to respond in a timely and appropriate manner.

## Priority Programs

Responsibility for protecting ESS assets will be shared among governments and the private sector, in coordination with DHS. Programs and resources being developed and enhanced include:

- **Technology Assessment:** Report on specific gaps, shortfalls, and potential voids that exist based on analysis of assessments, comprehensive reviews, and buffer-zone protection plans. A primary goal is a Technology Roadmap that identifies technologies that can be marketed and/or pilot tested within 18 months to reduce sector vulnerabilities and improve homeland security.
- **Un-manned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Systems:** Expand the existing capabilities of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) UAV systems to address the needs of the ESS in all-hazards or potential weapons of mass destruction events and/or conduct surveillance of an area of potential hostile activities.
- **Enhanced Robotics:** Develop a more robust robot capability by enhancing existing capabilities and training for ESS personnel on unique new methods, including down-range chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive detection with possible added features to include a low-cost, single-side radiography with precision aim to disarm bombs.



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