Overview
The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate’s Infrastructure Protection and Disaster Management Division (IDD) is engaged in developing innovative ways to protect the national inventories of buildings and infrastructure. The BIPS main objectives are to bring to the design community, researchers, and building owners and operators, state-of-the-art information and tools. The BIPS promotes an integrated approach to all hazards design and consists of a series of publications and community tools. These publications and tools are devoted to protect the built environment and expand the understanding of how lives can be saved, and buildings and structures remain operational in the aftermath of a disaster event.

Outputs
- Aging of Infrastructure: Issues Research and Technology
- Integrated Rapid Visual Screening for Mass Transit
- Integrated Rapid Visual Screening for Tunnels
- Integrated Rapid Visual Screening for Buildings (currently only available to a reduced audience)
- Preventing Structures from Collapsing to Limit Damage to Adjacent Structures and Additional Loss of Life when Explosives Devices Impact Highly Populated Urban Centers
- Reference Manual to Mitigate Potential Terrorist Attacks Against Buildings (Summer 2011)
- Primer to Design Safe School Projects in Case of School Shooting and Terrorist Attacks (Summer 2011)
- Primer on Blast Load Effects in Urban Canyons (Summer of 2011)

Challenges
U.S. building codes and standards set minimum requirements, primarily for health and life safety, that can be met by substantial portions of the design, construction and manufacturing communities. Building and infrastructure owners and developers have few compelling reasons to require buildings that exceed these minimum levels of performance. DHS is working with the public and private sector to increase the performance and resilience of the built environment within an all-hazard approach.

Users
DHS Infrastructure Protection; Federal Emergency Management Agency; commercial and government facilities; State and local governments; code officials; architecture and engineering design professionals.

Public Media Inquires: Mila Kennett, email: BIPS@dhs.gov

Uniqueness of the BIPS
Several of the BIPS are the updates of already very well-known publications such as FEMA 426, 428, and 455. The Integrated Rapid Visual Screening (IRVS) tools is a family of unique documents and tools. There is no other rapid visual screening methodology that has been developed for mass transportation and tunnels nationwide or worldwide. There is no other rapid visual screening methodology that has been developed for the assessment of buildings against all hazards (explosive blast; chemical, biological, radiological hazards; earthquakes; floods; winds; and fire). The BIPS will provide the nation with a superior knowledge of buildings and infrastructure protection systems. The BIPS publications are being used by TSA, NYPD, federal agencies, and many states and local governments.