

# Strengthening National Preparedness

In the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA, P.L. 109–295), Congress required the President to develop a national preparedness system – that includes planning and implementation guidance and processes – with a national preparedness goal. It also directed the FEMA Administrator to develop “guidelines to define risk-based target capabilities for Federal, State, local, and tribal government preparedness.”

## National Preparedness Goal

In 2011, the Secretary of Homeland Security redeveloped the national preparedness goal to comply with Presidential Policy Directive 8: “A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

### Missions

- 1 **Prevention** Avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism
- 2 **Protection** Secure the homeland against acts of terrorism and man-made or natural disasters
- 3 **Mitigation** Reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters
- 4 **Response** Save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred
- 5 **Recovery** Assist communities affected by an incident to recover effectively

**The whole community:** all levels of government—state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners—nonprofits, faith-based and community organizations, individuals and families, and businesses.



**Core capabilities:** Since 2015, FEMA has identified 32 capabilities that the “whole community” should perform before, during, and after disasters to meet the National Preparedness Goal.

CAPABILITIES	MISSIONS
Planning	●●●●●
Public Information and Warning	●●●●●
Operational Coordination	●●●●●
Intelligence and Information Sharing	●●●●●
Interdiction and Disruption	●●●●●
Screening, Search, and Detection	●●●●●
Forensics and Attribution	●●●●●
Access Control and Identity Verification	●●●●●
Cybersecurity	●●●●●
Physical Protective Measures	●●●●●
Risk Management for Protection	●●●●●
Supply Chain Integrity and Security	●●●●●
Community Resilience	●●●●●
Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction	●●●●●
Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	●●●●●
Threats and Hazards Identification	●●●●●
Infrastructure Systems	●●●●●
Critical Transportation	●●●●●
Environmental Response/Health and Safety	●●●●●
Fatality Management Services	●●●●●
Fire Management and Suppression	●●●●●
Logistics and Supply Chain Management	●●●●●
Mass Care Services	●●●●●
Mass Search and Rescue Operations	●●●●●
On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement	●●●●●
Operational Communications	●●●●●
Public Health Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Serv.	●●●●●
Situational Assessment	●●●●●
Economic Recovery	●●●●●
Health and Social Services	●●●●●
Housing	●●●●●
Natural and Cultural Resources	●●●●●

## Steps to Prepare

FEMA recommends that partners in the “whole community” perform each step.

▶ Indicates FEMA guidance document

### Review and update

Review capabilities, plans, and resources regularly to encourage continuous improvement the constant evolution of preparedness.

### Validate capabilities

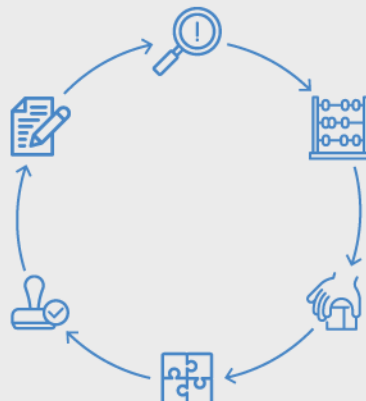
Practice delivering core capabilities through exercises. Test plans, policies, and procedures and identify gaps, areas for improvement, and best practices.

▶ **National Exercise Program** ([www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises))

### Identify and assess risk

Understand which risks to prepare for and how to prepare for them.

▶ **National Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)** ([www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/risk-capability-assessment](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/risk-capability-assessment))



### Plan to deliver capabilities

Map out the roles and responsibilities of core capabilities.

▶ **National Planning Frameworks** ([www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness))

### Estimate capabilities

Develop and maintain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to address critical threats and hazards.

▶ **National THIRA Stakeholder Preparedness Review** ([www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/risk-capability-assessment](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/risk-capability-assessment))

### Build and sustain capabilities

Organize, equip, and train the people, systems, processes, and policies needed to execute capabilities.

▶ **National Incident Management System** ([www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims))

FEMA’s annual assessment of national preparedness is available at [www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness).

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