



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Emergency Services Sector

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) identified 17 critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) sectors and designated Federal Government Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs) for each of the sectors. Each sector is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan and providing sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable the assessment of gaps in national cross-sector CIKR protection programs. 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, 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, firefighting, hazardous materials management, law enforcement, bomb prevention and detection, tactical operations/special weapons and tactics, and search and rescue. All first responders within the ESS possess specialized training from one or more of these disciplines.

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

planning, prevention, and mitigation activities, as well as response 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 CIKR 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.

CIKR Protection Issues

Within the ESS there are four overarching infrastructure systems that are critical to the execution of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector 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 for assistance, 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, corruption, 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 private sector partners, in coordination with DHS. Programs and resources are constantly assessed for gaps and the ESS works closely with the DHS Science & Technology Research & Development initiative to identify programs that will appropriately address critical needs.



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For questions or more information, please contact ESSTeam@hq.dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp.