



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Government Facilities 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. SSAs are responsible for collaborating with security partners and encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms within the sector.

Sector Overview

U.S. citizens regularly interact with government at all levels and depend on the provision of various government services, all of which are supported by an array of facilities owned, leased, or operated by government entities. Ensuring the continuity of these functions and services through protection of their associated government assets is vital to homeland security.

The Government Facilities Sector includes a wide variety of buildings, owned or leased by Federal, State, Territorial, local, or tribal governments, located domestically and overseas. Many government facilities are open to the public for business activities, commercial transactions, or recreational activities. Others not open to the public contain highly sensitive information, materials, processes, and equipment. This includes general-use office buildings and special-use military installations, embassies, courthouses, national laboratories, and structures that may house critical equipment and systems, networks, and functions.

In addition to physical structures, the sector considers cyber elements that contribute to the protection of sector assets (e.g., access control systems and closed-circuit television systems) as well as the protection of individuals who possess tactical, operational, or strategic knowledge or perform essential functions.

Sector Partnerships

The DHS Federal Protective Service (FPS), as part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is the SSA for the Government Facilities Sector. Building on its traditional role as protector of facilities owned and leased by the General Services Administration, FPS coordinates efforts among government at all levels to identify, assess, and enhance the protection of government facilities determined to be nationally critical.

A Government Coordinating Council, chaired by FPS, is the primary coordination point with representatives from government entities with the responsibility for the protection of government facilities. Because of its

inherently governmental focus, security partners are limited to representatives from Federal, State, local, or tribal government entities involved in the protection of owned or leased facilities. However, FPS works in close coordination with the Commercial Facilities Sector with regard to commercially leased facilities. FPS also represents the sector on the NIPP Federal Senior Leadership Council and through similar coordinating mechanisms established by other CI/KR sectors.

CI/KR Protection Issues

The sheer size and scope of the Government Facilities Sector poses a challenge in providing for infrastructure protection efforts. The Federal Government alone manages more than 3 billion square feet of space and more than 650 million acres of land. The sector also covers the assets owned and operated by the more than 87,000 municipal governments across the Nation, as well as U.S. embassies, consulates, and military installations located all over the world.

Government facilities represent attractive and strategically important targets for both domestic and international terrorist groups, as well as criminals. These assets are often targeted because they provide unique services, often perform sensitive functions, and have significant symbolic value. Because of the high-profile nature of the sector, government facilities operate within a very dynamic risk environment requiring a variety of well-coordinated protective measures to ensure the safety and security of citizens and the continued availability of essential government functions.

In an all-hazards environment, protective measures must also consider the natural hazards that may be likely based on the geographic location of assets. Earthquakes in the Western United States, hurricanes in the South, tornadoes in the Midwest, and blizzards in the Northeast are all natural hazards that affect the risk to a government facility. Preparing for a pandemic influenza is equally important to ensure that government functions and services continue.

Priority Programs

Because of the historical attacks on the Government Facilities Sector, many infrastructure protection programs have long been in place for many security partners. In most cases, these programs are robust and address risk in the most appropriate manner to the particular asset(s) that they are designed to protect.

To build on these successes and provide for additional cooperation and commonality, the Government Facilities Sector examines assets on a functional level to identify best practices that can apply to similar assets owned or operated by Federal, State, Territorial, local, or tribal governments. This allows for more uniformity across all levels of government when planning, implementing, and executing protective programs.

The primary initiatives currently underway within the Government Facilities Sector include the following:

- Continue to broaden interaction with sector security partners to strengthen information sharing and coordination and leverage security expertise, relationships, and resources within the sector;
- Facilitate the collection and protection of accurate information on sector assets;
- Assist sector security partners in their efforts to organize and conduct infrastructure protection and continuity-of-operations planning; and
- Facilitate and conduct research and development activities that provide innovative solutions to common operational challenges and capitalize on new applications of existing technology.



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For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp. For more information on the Government Facilities Sector, please contact NIPP_GFS@dhs.gov.