



# FEMA Fact Sheet

## Task Force for Emergency Readiness

The Task Force for Emergency Readiness (TFER) pilot program is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-led initiative to support and strengthen the catastrophic disaster emergency planning capacity of individual states. The TFER initiative centers on the creation and employment of a dedicated planning team, which will be formed around a set of highly-skilled planners with strong backgrounds in state or regional catastrophic preparedness planning, National Guard civil-military support operations, and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). The goal of the pilot is to assess the viability of the initiative to strengthen integrated state and federal planning by:

- Synchronizing catastrophic planning efforts at the respective state, regional and federal levels;
- Conducting assessments of catastrophic risk, as necessary
- Identifying and addressing gaps in existing state plans
- Assisting in the overall organization, administration and improvement of the state's catastrophic preparedness planning capacity

The TFER pilot will place special emphasis on the horizontal integration of catastrophic preparedness planning efforts across sectors, jurisdictions, and functional disciplines, as well as vertical integration among state, regional and federal agencies, including state emergency management and homeland security agencies, State National Guard organizations, FEMA and FEMA Regions, the National Guard Bureau (NGB), U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), and the Department of Defense (DoD).

### TFER Organization

The TFER pilot program is under the direct leadership of the Governor's state emergency management structure. TFER planners are hired by and work for the sponsoring state agency. States will interface with federal partners through three channels:

- FEMA National Preparedness Directorate (NPD) Program Manager
- FEMA Region Federal Preparedness Coordinators (FPCs)
- Defense Coordinating Officers (DCOs) and Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs)

Each state is required to prepare a project management plan that outlines specific reporting relationships, tasks, milestones, and deliverables, as well as the state's concept for interagency integration and synchronization.

### Pilot Duration and Evaluation

The TFER pilot is a Homeland Security Preparedness Technical Assistance Program (HSPTAP) solicitation being administered for an eighteen (18) month term beginning September 1, 2008. The TFER pilot program will be evaluated on the ability of the TFER teams to develop and improve state catastrophic plans, build relationships, and document lessons learned. The evaluation will determine the possible future expansion of the TFER program.



FEMA

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."