



Homeland
Security

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Heads
All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors
All Urban Area Core City/Core County Points of Contact

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SUBJECT: Updating State and Urban Area Homeland Security Strategies

On March 31, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the Interim National Preparedness Goal (the Goal) and accompanying National Preparedness Guidance. The Goal establishes a vision for a National Preparedness System, and the National Preparedness Guidance provides an introduction to several of the key building blocks for that system, including the National Planning Scenarios, Universal Task List, Target Capabilities List, and seven National Priorities.

DHS, in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services, is now providing follow-on guidance for use by States and Urban Areas to update their existing Homeland Security Strategies to ensure that they support the Goal and reflect the seven National Priorities. The intent of this update process is not to require an entirely new strategy, but rather to tailor and update, as appropriate, existing strategic goals and objectives to support the National Preparedness Goal, the seven National Priorities, local government concerns, and citizen preparedness efforts.

At a minimum, States and Urban Areas must ensure that their updated strategies address the four homeland security mission areas (prevent, protect, respond, recover) and reflect the seven National Priorities. Strategies must also address citizen preparedness and local government concerns, and identify any additional target capabilities from the Target Capabilities List (TCL) that are a priority for them beyond the National Priorities.

Updated strategies must be submitted to the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) by **September 30, 2005** in accordance with the provisions contained in the attached guidance document. Alignment of objectives to the seven National Priorities will be completed in the ODP online Data Collection Tool (DCT) using a simple drop-down feature. The DCT will collect the minimum requirements and build off of the previous State and Urban Area strategy submissions. The DCT will be available in August for strategy update submissions.

Although not required, States and Urban Areas may also choose to submit complete and updated strategies to ODP in PDF or Word document format. The intent of the two-part approach is to collect quantifiable data on strategic goals and objectives captured within the DCT and to afford States and Urban Areas flexibility in presenting a complete view of their homeland security efforts, if desired, through the submission of a complete strategy either in Word or PDF format. Additional guidance on the new functionality in the DCT and instructions for submission of strategy documents in PDF or Word document format will be forthcoming in August.

The current State and Urban Area Homeland Security Strategies address 2004, 2005, and 2006, and are mostly terrorism focused. In updating their strategies this year, States and Urban Areas should begin the process of evolving their strategies to address not only terrorism, but a broad range of other threats and hazards, founded on a capabilities-based planning approach. In the future, States and Urban Areas will be asked to develop enterprise-wide homeland security strategies for 2007, 2008, and 2009 that reflect the necessary integration and collaboration across all mission areas and support the establishment of the National Preparedness System and realization of the Goal.