



January 2011

WHEN:

May 16-19, 2011

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE:

Organizations with responsibilities in critical infrastructure protection including Federal, State, and local government agencies; owners/operators; nonprofit agencies; academic institutions; nongovernmental organizations; and other critical infrastructure stakeholders such as trade associations.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

- Learn how to better prepare for an all-hazards event
- Build and foster relationships at the Federal, regional, State, local, and tribal levels
- Practice your business continuity plan
- Increase awareness of how to respond in an emergency
- Protect your bottom line—being prepared will result in less downtime and fewer lost employee work hours

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Send your contact information to private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov. Please indicate: the desired level of participation, i.e., national or regional/State level; which States are of interest to you to ensure that you are assigned to the appropriate Exercise Planning Team; which of the 18 sectors you represent or are involved with and other key information needed to design and coordinate your participation in NLE 2011.

QUESTIONS:

For more information about NLE 2011, contact: private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov.

FOR MORE EXERCISE INFORMATION:

DHS has established an exercise channel on the Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) Web site for NLE 11. To request access to LLIS, send your request through www.LLIS.gov. Please request access to LLIS "National Level Exercise 2011 – National Private Sector Working Group (NPSWG)" channel. This channel will provide you with the most current and up to date information regarding NLE 11.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NLE 2011

An earthquake with a 7.7 magnitude in the central U.S. region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) could result in direct economic losses totaling nearly \$300 billion in the eight U.S. States that make up the NMSZ—Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, according to *Impact of Earthquakes in Central USA*, a two-year study conducted for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The study predicts indirect losses could be twice this amount, likely deeming it the largest economic loss due to a natural disaster in the United States. The impact on critical infrastructure is expected to be substantial. Estimates indicate nearly 715,000 buildings would be damaged in the eight-state region. The human toll would be catastrophic as well, with an estimated 86,000 injuries and fatalities resulting from damage to infrastructure.

To help businesses, owners/operators of critical infrastructure, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and others to prepare for such an event, the U.S. government's National Level Exercise (NLE) this year will simulate the disastrous nature of an earthquake in the Central United States. "The National Level Exercises provides a platform for industry to test threat information-sharing processes and exercise their crisis management plans in a no-fault environment," said Clyde D. Miller, director for Corporate Security for BASF—The Chemical Company, and chairman of PCIS, the Cross Sector Coordinating Council. "The exercises also allow industry to gain insight into how the government operates during an incident, offers industry an opportunity to work with local responders and Federal partners, and provides an opportunity for industry to test, review, and refine company policies."

NLE also will allow government and owners/operators to test their resilience. The Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection, Mr. Todd Keil, recently stated in his remarks on resilience initiatives at the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute that, "security risks, financial worries, and Mother Nature will always be on the horizon. Periodically, things will go wrong. While we must do our best to prevent these events, we must also be realistic and think about, plan for, and prepare to minimize the consequences of those eventualities so that we can bounce back quickly." Your participation in NLE 11 provides a great opportunity to practice your organization's continuity plans, and help your organization become more resilient.



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-Todd Keil
Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure Protection

HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK

The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is a national secure and trusted Web-based portal for information sharing and collaboration between Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and international partners engaged in the homeland security mission.

Membership in HSIN is Community of Interest (COI)-based. To become a member and gain access to NLE 2011 Exercise information, please request access to the **critical sector** COI. If you need additional information, please contact the Mission Advocate listed as the POC for a particular COI(s), or e-mail the HSIN program at HSIN.Outreach@HQ.DHS.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January 25: National Private Sector Working Group (NPSWG) General Membership Meeting and Afternoon Workshop:

- **Location:** Waterview Conference Center: 1919 North Lynn Street, Arlington, Va. 22209. Report to the front desk in the lobby to check in with security first.
- **Meeting:** 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.)
- **Afternoon Workshop:** "NLE 11 a.m. Participant Toolkit" 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (registration begins at 1:30 p.m. for participants who didn't attend the morning session)

If you can't attend in person, attend through HSIN Connect:

<HTTPS://connect.hsin.gov/npswg/>

NPSWG Meeting:

Audio Bridge: 1-800-320-4330
Participant Code: 372094

Afternoon Workshop:

Audio Bridge: 1-800-882-3610
Participant Code: 9719686

Please RSVP to private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov, with your name, title, organization, e-mail, and phone number.

March 8: NPSWG General Membership Meeting

- Location and time to be determined.

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Office of Infrastructure Protection
Keeping America Safe, Secure, and Resilient
www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NLE 2011

(Cont.)

If you wish to participate in the planning process for the National Level Exercise, you may join the National Private Sector Working Group to provide subject matter expertise (SME) on behalf of your respective industry. The NPSWG has organized several sub-working groups to help with the National Working Groups planning from a private sector perspective. If you have any questions on how to get involved, please contact private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov

Additionally, if you are interested in participating at the Region or State level the contacts listed in the blue box below left are the dedicated private sector planners from each of the participating States and Regions. They will be able to assist you with questions regarding NLE 11.

NLE 11 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are some frequently asked questions about NLE exercise terminology.

Additional questions will be answered each month in NLE 2011 Preparedness Matters.

1. Can companies participate for any duration at any portion of the exercise?

Yes, companies can play for any duration they choose or during any time period. We cannot require companies to play for the entire week, but we are encouraging as much private sector play as possible and, ideally, playing entities should play for as long as possible.

2. Can we exercise something outside of the objectives if it is our own separate exercise?

Yes, your objectives are developed by you and for you to exercise. It is recommended that your objectives be aligned or consistent with the National Overarching Objectives to make it easier to use the NLE 11 developed exercise material. If your exercise objectives are very different from the NLE National Objectives, you may not be able to use as much NLE 11 developed material. In this case, you would have to develop more material on your own in order to ensure a successful "internal" exercise. A list of NLE National Objectives was included in the December 2010 issue of NLE 2011 Preparedness Matters and can be found on www.LLIS.gov.

3. Describe "full play" in more detail.

If an organization chooses to participate in a Full Play capacity, the expectation is to compose objectives relevant to the National Overarching Objectives; choose which capabilities your respective organization plans to exercise; for example, loss of power or loss of resources. Additionally, the organization would need to participate in relevant exercise planning events, execute the expected functions during the week of NLE 11, conduct control and evaluation (done with exercise evaluation guides), and then partake in the development of the After Action Report (AAR), and Improvement Plan (IP) process. It is essential that Full Play members coordinate with the appropriate National, regional and / or State representatives in order to ensure proper execution takes place and is documented during the course of the exercise.

4. Who needs to participate in the NPSWG meetings? What if we do not want to help shape the exercise but want to conduct "full play"? Do we need to participate in a sub-working group?

Participation in the NPSWG meetings is not required. However, for those who wish to be involved in planning at the national level, it is recommended to participate in the NPSWG monthly meetings because it provides a venue to join in sub-working group activity in order to provide SME advice and input from an industry perspective. Additionally, the monthly NPSWG meetings provide the private sector the latest NLE 11 planning information from a FEMA National Exercise Division (NED) perspective across all elements of the exercise design. If you plan to participate as a "full player," you do need to be involved in the formal exercise planning process to ensure the necessary coordination with affected entities and agencies. ■