



Homeland Security

NIPP NEWS

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION PLAN ISSUE 47: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

NIPP-Related Activities and Events

Obama Administration Places National Spotlight on Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience

November and December have been banner months for increasing the national awareness of critical infrastructure protection and resilience. On December 2, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation declaring December 2009 as Critical Infrastructure Protection month [see below]. In the weeks leading up to this proclamation, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano held meetings with senior representatives from the critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) sectors. Subsequently, she has given radio addresses, hosted webinars, and participated in exercises—all with the goal of increasing the understanding of CIKR protection and resilience while promoting voluntary participation in the national infrastructure protection program.

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In a series of three roundtable discussions with private sector and government leaders from the CIKR sectors, Secretary Napolitano underscored her commitment to ensuring a more ready and resilient national approach to critical infrastructure protection—promoting vigilance, preparedness, and risk reduction—and gathered input on ways to increase engagement with private sector partners. She discussed the Department’s major efforts to protect cyber and physical infrastructure and facilitate private sector security efforts; she also highlighted the commitment of DHS to safeguard CIKR by enhancing information-sharing capabilities and encouraging all-hazards planning at the State and local levels.



Secretary Napolitano also unveiled a new web site—www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure—designed to provide stakeholders and the public with easily accessible information about their role in safeguarding CIKR. The web site features a link to the new CIKR Resource Center, which includes information on how to register for free web-based seminars on tools, trends, and best practices for infrastructure protection and resilience, as well as information about the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and National Response Framework.



In a case of perfect timing, the new Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection joined DHS in the first week of December. Todd Keil will lead the Department's coordinated efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to threats to the Nation's CIKR. Mr. Keil brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position, having developed, managed, and executed cost-effective worldwide security programs to protect key personnel, facilities, and information for both the public and private sectors. For more than 22 years, he was a special agent in the U.S. Foreign Service. He did tours as a regional security officer in Austria and Ireland and spent four years in the Diplomatic Security Service at the U.S. Department of State. Immediately prior to joining DHS, Mr. Keil was a senior consultant for the Welsh-Sullivan Group in Murphy, Texas, where he managed risk, security, and vulnerability assessments for corporate flight departments, business aircraft, and the general aviation community. Before joining Welsh-Sullivan, Mr. Keil led global threat analysis and business risk mitigation efforts at Texas Instruments for two years, and served as the company's liaison to U.S. government agencies at U.S. embassies.

With new leadership and a renewed national focus on infrastructure protection and resilience, the stage is set to advance the CIKR protection mission into the new year and beyond.

Presidential Proclamation - Critical Infrastructure Protection Month

A PROCLAMATION

Critical infrastructure protection is an essential element of a resilient and secure nation. Critical infrastructure are the assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, public health or safety. From water systems to computer networks, power grids to cellular phone towers, risks to critical infrastructure can result from a complex combination of threats and hazards, including terrorist attacks, accidents, and natural disasters. During Critical Infrastructure Protection Month, we pledge to work together to shelter our communities from the harm of uncertain threats.

My Administration is committed to ensuring our country's essential resources are safe and capable of recovering from disruptive incidents. The Department of Homeland Security is leading a coordinated national program to reduce risks and improve our national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency. The Department, in collaboration with other Federal stakeholders, State, local, and tribal governments, and private sector partners, has developed the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) to establish a framework for securing our resources and maintaining their resilience from all hazards during an event or emergency.

During Critical Infrastructure Protection Month, we rededicate ourselves to safeguarding and strengthening our Nation's infrastructure. Additionally, members of the public and private sectors should work with their appropriate State, regional, and local authorities to engage in critical infrastructure protection activities being coordinated across the country.

Americans can learn more about the NIPP and its partnership framework by visiting: www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2009 as Critical Infrastructure Protection Month. I call upon the people of the United States to recognize the importance of partnering to protect our Nation's resources and to observe this month with appropriate events and training to enhance our national security and resilience.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

Important Sector News

New DHS Initiative Aims to Raise Awareness Among Retail and Shopping Center Employees

As part of the effort to promote national awareness of critical infrastructure protection issues, DHS Secretary Napolitano established a working group to conduct outreach to shopping malls and lodging facilities. This is a multi-faceted initiative, involving several activities focused on sharing information and increasing awareness among the private sector. Private sector partners in this effort include the Retail Industry Leaders Association, the National Retail Federation, the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

As part of this outreach initiative, DHS produced a video entitled, "What's in Store: Ordinary People/Extraordinary Events," intended to raise awareness among retail and shopping center employees. The video was developed through a partnership between the Office of Infrastructure Protection's Partnership and Outreach Division, the Office for Bombing Prevention, the Commercial Facilities Sector-Specific Agency, and private sector partners.

Video filming took place in several locations throughout the Washington, D.C. metro area and focused on various aspects of the retail industry. Filming was coordinated by the NIPP Program Management Office and used actors to portray real-world examples of suspicious behavior and appropriate actions that employees should take if they notice suspicious activity in the workplace. Employees at retail locations are familiar with their surroundings and should be able to identify behavior that is unusual. The key message of the video is that suspicious actions should not be ignored and that employees can make a difference.

"What's in Store: Ordinary People/Extraordinary Events" will be distributed on DVD to retailers across the country and is posted on www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure for viewing and downloading. While the video is intended for point-of-sale staff, it is applicable to all employees of shopping centers, malls, town centers, strip malls, and other retail facilities.



Department of
Homeland Security
Presents:

What's in Store:
Ordinary People | Extraordinary Events

Length: 9 minutes

CIKR Protection Activities and Highlights from the Water Sector

EPA Launches Water Laboratory Alliance and Engages Water Sector Partners in Summit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water, through collaboration with its partners in the Water Sector, has officially launched the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA). The WLA provides the Water Sector with access to an integrated, nationwide network of laboratories with the analytical capability and capacity to respond to an intentional, unintentional, or natural water contamination event.

The WLA integrates public health, environmental, and select commercial laboratories with drinking water analytical capabilities. The WLA focuses solely on water and is an integral part of EPA's Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN). In addition to supporting the Water Sector, the WLA benefits member laboratories by:

- Improving laboratory response to emergencies;
- Allowing access to other laboratories' analytical capabilities or knowledge;
- Improving communications with peer laboratories (especially when addressing analytical, laboratory security, or laboratory operation challenges);

- Providing access to water security-related training; and
- Allowing access to standardized analytical methods and data reporting systems.

In support of the launch, EPA held a WLA Security Summit on October 22-23, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA. Over 100 technical and leadership staff from the Water Sector, Laboratory and Emergency Response Communities attended this inaugural event. Participants represented State laboratories, EPA Regional offices and laboratories, water utilities and utility labs, first responders, State public health and environmental laboratories, local and State governments, commercial laboratories, and Federal agencies.

The majority of the Summit was dedicated to the WLA Response Plan (see companion article below). Attendees participated in four separate groups to navigate through the WLA Response Plan (WLA-RP) via an interactive tabletop exercise (TTX) called "The Perfect Storm."

The Summit also included sessions on the ERLN/WLA launch, Water Analysis Capabilities for Homeland Security, and a Tech Town exhibit area showcasing EPA security-related tools and resources. Presentations from the 2009 WLA Security Summit are posted online at (https://www.thetestportal.com/public/alsded+portal_apps.wla.p_presentations). For more information on the WLA, please visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/wla.cfm> or email: WLA@epa.gov.

EPA Develops the Water Laboratory Alliance Response Plan

The Draft Water Laboratory Alliance Response Plan (WLA-RP) was created to support the WLA and serve as its foundation. EPA Regional staff and Water Sector stakeholders contributed to the development and testing of this plan.

The purpose of the plan is to establish a nationally consistent approach for coordinated laboratory response to water contamination incidents. The WLA-RP sets the stage for how laboratories across the nation address water contamination incidents which, due to their suspected cause or size, may require additional analytical support and a broader response than a typical utility, State, or Federal laboratory can provide. The plan is intended for use in responding to incidents of all sizes, including small responses requiring support from a single laboratory, to large-scale, multi-regional incidents requiring support from dozens of laboratories.

The WLA-RP was tested during a full-scale exercise conducted in EPA Regions 1 and 2 (Northeastern U.S.) during the week of September 14, 2009, and will be revised based on lessons learned from this exercise. EPA is also requesting that its partners provide feedback on the WLA-RP so that their comments can be incorporated in the latest revision of the plan.

For more information on the Water Laboratory Alliance Response Plan, please contact Anand Mudambi, EPA Office of Water (Mudambi.Anand@epa.gov) or your EPA regional laboratory contact (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/wla.cfm#contact>).

EPA Develops Versatile and Secure Tools for the Water Sector

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water has improved the Water Sector's ability to identify and analyze contaminants in drinking water and wastewater systems through the development of two secure online tools; the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT), and the National Environmental Methods Index for Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Methods (NEMI-CBR), with a companion expert system, the CBR Advisor.

WCIT is a secure online database containing detailed information on over 100 contaminants of concern to the Water Sector. For each contaminant, WCIT provides detailed information describing the substance, its behavior in water, potential health effects, and other useful information. WCIT is a major element of EPA's support of Water Sector preparedness. It is a powerful information resource for water utilities, public health officials, and agencies responsible for the safety of water supplies. For more information about this tool, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/wcit>.

NEMI-CBR is a secure online tool that contains complete analytical methods for chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants that could pose a threat to drinking water or wastewater systems. This tool enables the user to search, summarize, compare costs, and download (or link to) analytical methods for emergency response and regular monitoring. The CBR Advisor, a separate tool housed within NEMI-CBR, can be used both to plan for and respond to emergencies.

NEMI-CBR is an effective web-based tool that supports the contamination response capabilities of the Water Sector. For more information please visit <http://www.epa.gov/nemicbr>.

> Resources Available for NIPP Partners

The free on-line NIPP training course is available at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. The NIPP trade show booth is also available for sector use. Please contact NIPP@dhs.gov for information on NIPP PMO participation and/or exhibition at an upcoming sector event or to schedule one of the growing cadre of trained speakers who can be deployed to sector events to speak on CIKR issues.

> Implementation Success Stories

The NIPP PMO continues to seek NIPP and/or SSP implementation success stories from the sectors to be shared with other CIKR partners. Please submit any suggestions or brief write-ups to the NIPP PMO at NIPP@dhs.gov.

> NIPP Newsletter

The NIPP Newsletter is a product of the NIPP PMO and NIPP partners are welcome to submit input. If you have any questions about the Newsletter or would like to submit information for inclusion in upcoming issues, please contact the NIPP PMO at NIPP@dhs.gov. Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to disseminate it further to their CIKR partners.