NATIONAL EXERCISE PROGRAM

Validating our nation's preparedness

The National Exercise Program (NEP) is a two-year cycle of selected exercises across the nation that examines and validates capabilities in all preparedness mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery.

Benefits of Participating in the NEP

Receive technical assistance and support for your exercises from experienced exercise specialists.

Access exercise templates, tools, and other resources to help you design, conduct, and evaluate your exercises.

Pursue new exercise ideas and broaden the impact of your exercises to a wider group of stakeholders.

Influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise findings.

How the NEP Works

- Local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal Government agencies, private sector organizations, non-profit organizations, and other community partners can nominate exercises to the NEP

- Exercises can be discussion-based (seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises, games) or operations-based (drills, functional exercises, full-scale exercises)

- Exercises are selected for inclusion in the NEP based on their alignment to strategic priorities for each two-year cycle set by the National Security Council

- Exercises in the NEP contribute evaluation data to the National Preparedness System to provide a clearer picture of the nation's readiness

How to Participate in the NEP

Visit *fema.gov/nep* to learn more about the 2019-2020 cycle

Download and complete the Exercise Nomination Form

Work with your FEMA Regional Exercise Officer and submit the Exercise Nomination Form to *nep@fema.dhs.gov*
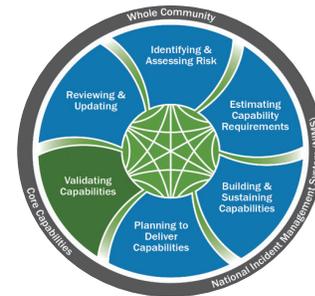
The National Exercise Division at FEMA will respond to discuss your exercise

NATIONAL EXERCISE PROGRAM PRINCIPALS' STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The two-year NEP cycle is guided by Principals' Strategic Priorities, established by the National Security Council and informed by preparedness data from jurisdictions across the nation.

The 2019-2020 cycle is guided by nine Principals' Strategic Priorities. These priorities are driven by data through the National Preparedness System, including the National Preparedness Report (NPR), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRAs), After-Action Reports (AARs), and other preparedness data.

For more information about the National Preparedness System, visit **fema.gov/national-preparedness-system.**

Principals' Strategic Priorities for 2019-2020	Highlights
1 Operational Coordination and Communications Examine the ability of law enforcement, fire and medical services, public health, and other emergency management partners to conduct integrated operational planning, establish an incident command structure, ensure interoperable communications, share information, and maintain a common operating picture during an incident.	80% of jurisdictions identified Operational Communications and Operational Coordination as high priority in the 2017 SPR.
2 Cybersecurity Examine the ability of the whole community to synchronize cyber defense measures, authorities, information sharing, and public messaging—from prevention through response—and to coordinate internal and external cyber response activities including rapid threat notification.	87% of jurisdictions identified cyber attacks as a primary threat of concern in the 2017 THIRA.
3 Stabilization and Restoration of Critical Lifelines Examine the ability of public and private sector partners to mitigate risks to infrastructure systems; leverage mutual assistance and private sector resources; and prioritize, stabilize, and restore critical lifelines such as communications, energy, hazardous waste management, healthcare, food and water, safety and security, and transportation.	FEMA AARs emphasized restoring critical lifelines and coordinating with private sector owners and operators.
4 National Security Emergencies Examine the ability of all levels of government to identify appropriate roles and required authorities; proactively share incident information; coordinate decision-making; prioritize and mobilize resources; continue essential functions; protect affected populations; and conduct effective public messaging for any incident that threatens the national security of the United States.	Gaps in the 2017 SPR indicated a need to establish processes for prioritizing resources and integrating capabilities in a national security emergency.
5 Public Health Emergencies Examine the ability of the whole community to implement integrated emergency medical services, medical care, and response operations against infectious diseases or other public health incidents by conducting biosurveillance; detecting, categorizing, controlling, and containing threats; implementing medical and nonmedical countermeasures; rapidly communicating with external partners and the public; and addressing the aftereffects of any health emergency.	The 2017 THIRA included pandemics as the second most frequently identified natural hazard.
6 Community Recovery and Economic Resilience Examine the ability of the whole community to implement mitigation and recovery plans, strategies, and programs that are federally supported, state managed, and locally executed to achieve long-term recovery objectives, including economic resilience among community businesses, households, and individuals.	2012-2017 NPRs highlighted Infrastructure Systems, Housing, and Economic Recovery as national areas for improvement.
7 Mass Care and Housing Examine the ability of the whole community to provide disaster survivors with streamlined, coordinated, and inclusive life-sustaining services—such as feeding, reunification, and distribution of emergency supplies—from congregate sheltering through long-term housing.	Only 20% of states and territories rated themselves proficient in the Housing core capability in the 2017 SPR.
8 Continuity Examine the ability of partners across the whole community, including businesses and government at all levels, to execute continuity plans and continue essential functions and services during an incident where key personnel, facilities, or systems are directly threatened or impacted.	SPR gaps in continuity planning increased significantly in 2017, while other Planning gaps remained consistent.
9 School Safety and Security Examine the ability of K-12 school and higher education officials and community partners with roles and responsibilities in school safety to identify, prioritize, and plan for potential threats or hazards; establish lines of coordination and communication, share information, execute emergency plans during an incident; and validate training and resources to provide for the well-being of students and staff before, during, and after an incident.	The percentage of schools with plans for procedures to be performed in the event of a shooting increased from 79% in 2003-04 to 92% in 2015-16.