



**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.**

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. The 2019-2020 NEP cycle is guided by nine Principals’ Strategic Priorities, established by the National Security Council and informed by national preparedness data.

## What are Cybersecurity exercises?

### Exercises aligned to this priority should:

- Examine coordination across multiple levels of government or the private sector
- Assess the ability to share cyber threat intelligence and information
- Clarify and evaluate cyber response authorities, roles, and responsibilities
- Assess notification and public messaging for affected organizations and/or the public

### Related Core Capabilities

- Cybersecurity
- Forensics and Attribution
- Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Operational Coordination
- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities

## Why is this important?

States, territories, tribes, urban areas, and other communities use the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) to assess their preparedness. FEMA includes the results of the THIRA and SPR, along with several other preparedness indicators, in the annual National Preparedness Report (NPR). Analytic results help shape planning, training, exercise, and other prioritization decisions at all levels.

### National Preparedness Report

- NPR has identified the Cybersecurity core capability as a **national area for improvement** each year since 2012
- NPR highlighted challenges associated with **coordinating intelligence, information sharing, and continuity of operations**

### Emerging Threats

- In 2017, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Internet Crime Complaint Center received a total of **301,508 complaints** concerning suspected Internet-facilitated criminal activity. Reported losses of victims exceeded **\$1.4 billion**
- Critical services have seen increases in **ransomware attacks**

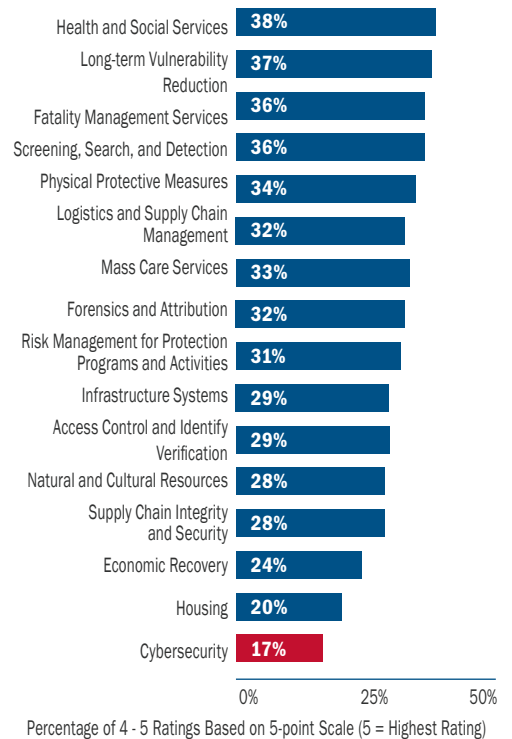
### Stakeholder Preparedness Review

- 82% of jurisdictions rated **Cybersecurity as a high priority** core capability in their 2017 SPRs
- Cybersecurity received the **lowest proficiency ratings** in the 2017 SPRs, as shown in the graph (right) which depicts the sixteen lowest-rated capabilities overall

### Spotlight: C2M2 Toolkit

The **Cybersecurity Capability Maturity Model (C2M2)** toolkit developed by the Department of Energy offers tools to help electricity, oil, and natural gas utilities evaluate the maturity of their cybersecurity programs and identify and prioritize ways to enhance their cybersecurity posture. Contact the C2M2 team at [C2M2@hq.doe.gov](mailto:C2M2@hq.doe.gov) for more information.

### SPR Lowest Rated Core Capabilities

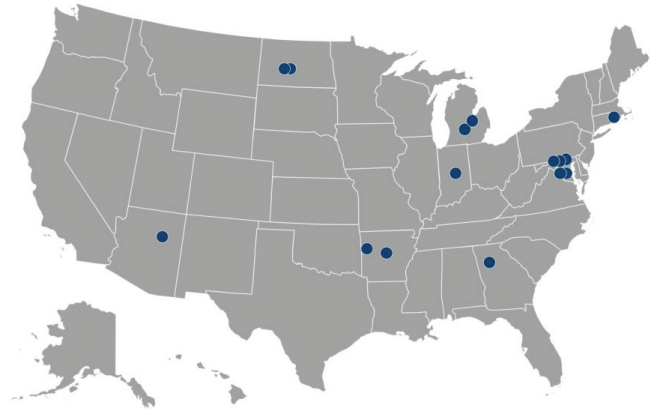




## What are the major challenges?

An analysis of 15 real-world and exercise after-action reports (AARs) revealed common challenges:

- Identifying opportunities to acquire preparedness and planning experience, specifically for cyber-related events
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies in the event of a cyber incident
- Instituting formal processes to assess and prioritize cyber incidents during response operations
- Establishing formal plans to respond to a cyberattack on critical infrastructure systems
- Identifying available external capabilities and resources during a large-scale cyber incident



*Distribution of jurisdictions that submitted AARs for exercises aligning to Cybersecurity capabilities*

## What can I do?

Training and exercises can help all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and other partners across the whole community be better prepared. The National Exercise Division at FEMA is committed to providing assistance to partners in planning, designing, developing, conducting, and evaluating their own exercises that validate core capabilities.

### Exercise Starter Kits

Exercise Starter Kits are pre-packaged sets of guides and templates to help exercise planners develop tabletop exercises that can be tailored to the specific threats, resources, and operational plans of their community.

### Spotlight Initiative

The **InfraGard** program is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the private sector. This partnership encourages information and intelligence sharing between law enforcement and business leaders to prevent hostile acts against the United States, including cyber crime, attacks, and espionage. Get involved at [infragard.org](http://infragard.org).

### Training Courses

Examples of relevant training courses are provided below. Course offerings frequently change; please visit [firstrespondertraining.gov](http://firstrespondertraining.gov) for a full list of training courses and resources.

- AWR-169-W:** Cyber Incident Analysis and Response, Web-Based
- IS-523:** Resilient Accord – Exercising Continuity Plans for Cyber Incidents
- MGT-384:** Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents
- MGT-385:** Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning
- MGT-452:** Physical and Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure
- MGT-456:** Integration of Cybersecurity Personnel into the Emergency Operations Center for Cyber Incidents

*FEMA training courses are provided at no cost to first responders.*

Please visit [preptoolkit.fema.gov](http://preptoolkit.fema.gov) for Exercise Starter Kits, training courses, and additional resources.

## Nominate an Exercise to the National Exercise Program

### Benefits of participating in the NEP include:

- Receiving technical assistance and support for your exercises from experienced exercise specialists
- Access to exercise templates, tools, and other resources to help you design, conduct, and evaluate your exercises
- The ability to pursue new exercise ideas and broaden the impact of your exercises to a wider group of stakeholders
- The opportunity to influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise findings

### How to Participate in the NEP

1. Visit [fema.gov/nep](http://fema.gov/nep) to learn more about the 2019-2020 cycle
2. Download and complete the Exercise Nomination Form
3. Work with your FEMA Regional Exercise Officer ([fema.gov/reos](http://fema.gov/reos)) and submit the Exercise Nomination Form to [nep@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nep@fema.dhs.gov)
4. The FEMA National Exercise Division will respond to discuss your exercise