

Plan Structure

Base Plan

Concept of Operations, Coordinating Structures, Definitions and Appendixes, which include a Glossary, Acronyms, Authorities and Compendium of National Interagency Plans.

Emergency Support Function Annexes

Group capabilities and resources into functions most likely needed during an incident and describe the responsibilities of primary and support agencies involved.

Support Annexes

Provide the procedures and specific administrative requirements common to most incidents (e.g. Public Affairs, Financial Management, and Worker Safety and Health).

Incident Annexes

Describe protocols and agency roles and responsibilities for specific contingencies (e.g. bioterrorism, radiological response, catastrophic incidents). In many cases, these annexes are supported by more detailed operational supplements or standard operating procedures.

Linkages to Other Plans

The NRP incorporates relevant portions of and, upon full implementation, supersedes the:

- Initial National Response Plan (INRP)
- Federal Response Plan (FRP)
- U.S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan (CONPLAN), and
- Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP)

The NRP, as the core operational plan for domestic incident management, incorporates other national interagency plans as supporting plans or operational supplements. It also links to and integrates other Federal interagency plans such as the National Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Materials.

National Response Plan

Signatory Partners

Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Education
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Department of the Treasury
Department of Veterans Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Communications Commission
General Services Administration
National Aeronautic and Space Administration
National Transportation Safety Board
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Personnel Management
Small Business Administration
Social Security Administration
Tennessee Valley Authority
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Postal Service
American Red Cross
Corporation for National and Community Service
National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster



Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov/nrp

(800) 368-6498

National Response Plan

One team, one goal...a safer, more secure America

All-Discipline, All-Hazards Plan

The National Response Plan (NRP) is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of domestic incidents. It provides the structure and mechanisms for the coordination of Federal support to State, local, and tribal incident managers and for exercising direct Federal authorities and responsibilities. The NRP assists in the important homeland security mission of preventing terrorist attacks within the United States; reducing the vulnerability to all natural and man-made hazards; and minimizing the damage and assisting in the recovery from any type of incident that occurs.

Incidents of National Significance

The NRP provides the mechanisms for a comprehensive coordinated response to all Incidents of National Significance. Incidents of National Significance are high-impact events that require an extensive and well-coordinated multiagency response to save lives, minimize damage, and provide the basis for long-term community and economic recovery. As the principal Federal official for domestic incident management, the Secretary of Homeland Security declares Incidents of National Significance (in consultation with other departments and agencies as appropriate).

All-Inclusive Development Process

The President of the United States directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and administer the NRP. The Plan was drafted by a multiagency team using input from Federal, State, local, tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental stakeholder groups.

NRP/NIMS

The NRP is a specific application of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS provides the doctrine, concepts, principles, terminology, and organizational processes needed for effective, efficient, and collaborative incident management at all levels. While the NIMS provides the template, it is not an operational incident management or resource allocation plan. The NRP, using the comprehensive framework of the NIMS, provides the coordinating structure and mechanisms for national-level policy and operational direction for Federal support to State, local, and tribal incident managers, Federal-to-Federal support and for exercising direct Federal authorities and responsibilities as appropriate under the law.

Incident Management

The NRP establishes the following incident management priorities:

- Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers;
- Ensure security of the homeland;
- Prevent an imminent incident, including acts of terrorism, from occurring;
- Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources;
- Conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution and/or attribution;
- Protect property and mitigate damages and impacts to individuals, communities, and the environment; and
- Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, governments, and the environment.

Emphasis on Local Response

All incidents are handled at the lowest possible organizational and jurisdictional level. Police, fire, public health and medical, emergency management, and other personnel are responsible for incident management at the local level. For those events that rise to the level of an Incident of National Significance, DHS provides operational and/or resource coordination for Federal support to on-scene incident command structures.

Proactive Federal Response to Catastrophic Events

The NRP provides mechanisms for expedited and proactive Federal support to ensure critical life-saving assistance and incident containment capabilities are in place to respond quickly and efficiently to catastrophic incidents. These are high-impact, low-probability incidents, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks that result in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.

Multiagency Coordination Structure

The NRP establishes multiagency coordinating structures at the field, regional and headquarters levels. These structures:

- Enable the execution of the responsibilities of the President through the appropriate Federal department and agencies;
- Integrate Federal, State, local, tribal, nongovernmental Organization, and private-sector efforts; and
- Provide a national capability that addresses both site-specific incident management activities and broader regional or national issues, such as impacts to the rest of the country, immediate regional or national actions required to avert or prepare for potential subsequent events, and the management of multiple incidents.

New Coordinating Mechanisms Include:

Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC).

The HSOC serves as the primary national-level multiagency situational awareness and operational coordination center. The HSOC includes elements of DHS and other Federal departments and agencies.

■ National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).

The NRCC, a functional component of the HSOC, is a multiagency center that provides overall Federal response coordination.

■ Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC).

At the regional level, the RRCC coordinates regional response efforts and implements local Federal program support until a Joint Field Office is established.

Interagency Incident Management Group (IIMG).

A tailored group of senior level Federal interagency representatives who provide strategic advice to the Secretary of Homeland Security during an actual or potential Incident of National Significance.

Joint Field Office (JFO). A temporary Federal facility established locally to provide a central point for Federal, State, local, and tribal representatives with responsibility for incident support and coordination.

Principal Federal Official (PFO). A PFO may be designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security during a potential or actual Incident of National Significance. While individual Federal officials retain their authorities pertaining to specific aspects of incident management, the PFO works in conjunction with these officials to coordinate overall Federal incident management efforts.

Plan Maintenance

The Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness and Response/Federal Emergency Management Agency, in close coordination with the DHS Office of the Secretary, is the executive agent for NRP management and maintenance. The NRP will be updated periodically as required to incorporate new Presidential directives, legislative changes, and procedural changes based on lessons learned from exercises and actual events.

Prevention

The NRP may be implemented for threats or potential Incidents of National Significance to prevent or intervene to lessen the impact of an incident. Prevention activities may include: heightened inspections; improved surveillance and security operations; public health and agricultural surveillance and testing; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and, as appropriate, specific law enforcement operations aimed at deterring, preempting, interdicting, or disrupting illegal activity and apprehending potential perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

Preparedness

Preparedness is a continuous process involving efforts to identify threats, determine vulnerabilities, and identify required resources. The NRP provides the basis for Federal department and agency compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8, National Preparedness.

Response

The NRP provides the policies and processes for coordinating Federal support activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. These activities include immediate actions to preserve life, property, and the environment; meet basic human needs; and maintain the social, economic, and political structure of the affected community.

Recovery

Recovery involves actions needed to help individuals and communities return to normal, when feasible. Recovery actions include the development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans and the reconstitution of government operations and services through individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public assistance programs.