



A Common Starting Point: The National Priorities

The **National Preparedness Goal** (The Goal) envisions a national preparedness system in which all entities have target levels of capability in place and effectively communicate and coordinate resources. Implementing such a system will be a complex undertaking. To guide implementation in the short term, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8: *National Preparedness* (HSPD-8) calls for the Goal to include **measurable national priorities** to be achieved.

Achieving the National Preparedness Priorities

The National Preparedness Goal establishes measurable priorities, targets, and a common approach to developing needed capabilities. To help correctly balance the potential threat of major events with the requisite resources to prevent, respond to, and recover from them, the Goal also includes seven national priorities. The national priorities were developed after a review of national strategies, directives, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) objectives and priorities, and State homeland security strategies. The priorities fall into two categories: overarching priorities that contribute to development of multiple capabilities, and capability-specific priorities that build selected capabilities from the TCL for which the Nation has the greatest need. Achieving the priorities will help advance national Homeland Security objectives by focusing preparedness efforts and emphasis on the following areas:

Overarching Priorities

- **Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan:** Implement the National Incident Management System and National Response Plan nation-wide.
- **Expanded Regional Collaboration:** Strengthen regionally-based preparedness by focusing our finite resources on expanded regional collaboration centered on urban areas with the greatest density of population, critical infrastructure, and other significant risk factors.
- **Implement the Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan :** Strengthen capabilities to protect high-traffic borders, ports, public transit systems, and other high priority critical infrastructure outside the areas of expanded regional collaboration centered on urban areas.

Capability-Specific Priorities

- **Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities:** Establishing prevention frameworks based on expanded regional collaboration that are linked in a national network will facilitate efforts to achieve information sharing and collaboration capabilities.
- **Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities:** Achieve interoperability not only in terms of communications, but also in the broad ability of systems and organizations to provide service and to accept service from one another across jurisdiction lines, enabling them to operate effectively together.
- **Strengthen Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Detection, Response and Decontamination Capabilities:** Strengthen national capabilities to prevent and deter acts of terrorism
- **Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities:** Establish emergency-ready public health and healthcare entities across the Nation.