



U. S. Department of Homeland Security

Office for Domestic Preparedness

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
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SUBJECT: Vulnerability Methodology Assessment Report

In July 2002, the President approved the *National Strategy for Homeland Security*, establishing a road map for the national effort to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism in the United States. The *National Strategy* recognizes the vital role of state and local public safety agencies in providing for the security of our homeland. In February 2003, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Public Law 108-7 that provides state and local governments with the vital funding they require to participate in the national effort to combat terrorism. In April 2003, the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003, provided additional funds to expand and continue these efforts.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) reflects the intent of Congress and the Administration to enhance and quantify the preparedness of the nation to combat terrorism. Whereas most states and municipalities have strengthened their overall capability to respond to acts of terrorism involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) weapons, there continues to be room for improvement in meeting our national priorities of preventing and responding to terrorist attacks.

The Office for Domestic Preparedness identified a need to examine and classify various types of vulnerability assessment methodologies, software and tools as they would pertain to different types of assets. This Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Report provides an analysis of various commercial and government vulnerability assessment methodologies which can be used by state and local governments to assess the risk associated within their areas of responsibility. The analysis provides a baseline comparative point from which to evaluate participating vulnerability assessment providers' services, products and capabilities.

The Department of Homeland Security looks forward to continuing to empower the first responder community - enabling them to make better-educated decisions about the equipment and technologies available to them.

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