

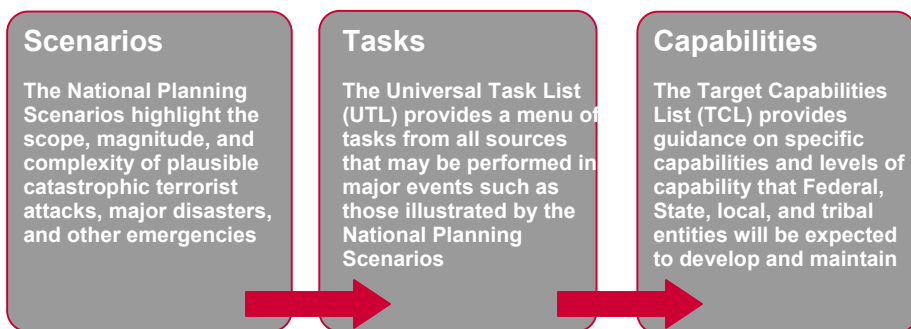


## Strengthening National Preparedness: Capabilities-Based Planning

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8: *National Preparedness* (HSPD-8) calls for an all-hazards **National Preparedness Goal** (the Goal) that establishes measurable priorities, targets, and a common approach to developing needed capabilities. The Goal sets forth a Capabilities-Based Planning approach to help balance the potential threat and magnitude of terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies with the resources required to prevent, respond to, and recover from them. Defining risk-based target levels of capability for the Goal involves identifying a plausible range of major events; the tasks to be performed in prevention, protection, response, and recovery that would require a coordinated national effort; and the specific capabilities and levels of capability that would minimize the impact on lives, property, and the economy. Key Capabilities-Based Planning tools and products are explained below:

### National Planning Scenarios

The Nation must prepare for the next major event, not the last one. Fifteen **National Planning Scenarios** highlight a plausible range of major events such as terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies, that pose the greatest risk to the Nation. The scenarios are not intended to be exhaustive or predictive. Nor do they do address every possible situation, but in combination, they illustrate the tasks and capabilities required to respond to a wide range of major events. The National Planning Scenarios should be used by entities at all levels of government as a reference to help identify the critical tasks and capabilities that would be required from all sources in a coordinated national effort to manage major events.



### Universal Task List

The **Universal Task List (UTL)** is a useful planning reference: a comprehensive menu of tasks that may be performed in major events illustrated by the National Planning Scenarios. The UTL describes “what” tasks need to be performed. Federal, State, local, and tribal entities reserve the flexibility to determine “who” needs to perform them and “how” to perform them. While no single jurisdiction or agency is expected to be able to perform all of the tasks, it is expected that tasks will be chosen based on specific roles, missions, and functions. The UTL should be used by entities at all levels of government as a reference to help them plan, organize, equip, train, exercise, and evaluate personnel for the critical tasks that they may need to perform in major events that could occur across town or across the Nation. Both the UTL and TCL are considered “living” documents that will continue to be refined over time.

### Target Capabilities List

The **Target Capabilities List (TCL)** provides guidance on the specific capabilities and levels of capability that Federal, State, local, and tribal entities will be expected to develop and maintain. A capability may be delivered with any combination of properly planned, organized, equipped, trained, and exercised personnel that achieves the outcome. The TCL is designed to assist jurisdictions and agencies in understanding and defining their respective roles in a major event, the capabilities required to perform a specified set of tasks, and where to obtain additional resources if needed.

The Planning Tools are available at the secure sites <https://odp.esportals.com> and <http://www.llis.gov>  
For more information, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/assessments/hspd8.htm>