

FRAWG

Federal Risk Assessment Working Group

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BACKGROUND

Agencies throughout the Federal government conduct assessments of both broadly based organizations, such as communities and regions, and of specific infrastructure elements. Some agencies have multiple responsibilities and have developed an array of specialized assessment tools. Additionally, some industry-developed assessment tools are accepted by Federal agencies. Because agencies respond to a variety of individual requirements for the conduct of assessments, there is no inherent mechanism for coordinating assessments.

RESPONSE

The National Strategy for Homeland Security challenges agencies “to develop interconnected and complementary systems that are reinforcing rather than duplicative and that ensure essential requirements are met.” In an effort to be consistent with and support implementation of the National Strategy, a group of Federal agency assessment practitioners created the Federal Risk Assessment Working Group (FRAWG) to promote inter-agency coordination and information



sharing. Representatives from participating Federal agencies meet once a month to encourage and ensure information sharing regarding risk assessments and other related homeland security issues.



SECURE PORTAL

Recognizing the value of information sharing, lessons learned, and best practices for risk assessments among Federal agencies, a FRAWG Interactive Portal was created on an existing service used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The portal serves as the hub for information and communication among FRAWG members. Providing a secure environment for messaging, information dissemination, and online collaboration, the FRAWG Portal also serves as the host for two documents instrumental in achieving the goal of inter-agency collaboration.

I. The Calendar: The Federal Risk Assessment Interactive Calendar allows participating agencies to upload and share information regarding planned assessments. One function allows members to search for other agency assessments. The calendar contains detailed information on assessments, including location, dates, type of assessment performed, and a point of contact to provide additional information.

II. The Matrix: The Risk Assessment Matrix provides a simple summary of the major activities of FRAWG members. The Risk Assessment Matrix identifies the target audience, delivery platform, and other aspects

of the risk assessment methodology for each assessment. This allows FRAWG members to better understand the various processes underway and to develop cross-agency collaborations on risk assessments across the country.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

- Office of Grants and Training (G&T)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP)

U.S. Department of Defense:

- U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM)

U.S. Department of Transportation:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the Federal Risk Assessment Working Group or other programs, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) at 1-800-368-6498 or askcsid@dhs.gov.