



# National Infrastructure Protection Plan

## Education, Outreach, and Awareness

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) provides the coordinated approach that will be used to establish national priorities, goals, and requirements for critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) protection. This coordinated approach will allow Federal funding and resources to be applied in the most effective manner to reduce vulnerability, deter threats, and minimize the consequences of attacks and other incidents. The NIPP also establishes a framework to enable the education, training, and exercise programs that allows people and organizations to develop and maintain key CI/KR protection expertise. DHS, in conjunction with the Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs) and other security partners, is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive national awareness program for CI/KR protection.

The development and implementation of a national awareness program for CI/KR protection was identified as a major need in the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets. To ensure an effective, efficient CI/KR protection program over the long term, the NIPP relies on the following mechanisms:

- **Building national awareness** to support the CI/KR protection program, related protection investments, and protection activities by ensuring a focused understanding of the all-hazards threat environment and of what is being done to protect and enable the timely restoration of the Nation's CI/KR in light of such threats; and
- **Enabling education, training, and exercise programs** to ensure that skilled and knowledgeable professionals and experienced organizations are able to undertake NIPP-related responsibilities in the future.

These mechanisms are further described below.

### Building National Awareness

The objectives of the national awareness program are to:

- Incorporate CI/KR protection and restoration considerations into business planning and operations, including employee and senior manager education and training programs, across all levels of government and the private sector;
- Support public and private sector decision making, enable the planning of relevant and effective protection and restoration strategies, and inform resource allocation processes;
- Develop an understanding of CI/KR dependencies and interdependencies and the value of cross-sector CI/KR protection and restoration planning down to the community level;

- Maintain public understanding of the evolving threat to CI/KR as assessed by the intelligence community and in the context of the Homeland Security Advisory System; and
- Build public understanding of efforts to address the threat environment and enhance protection and rapid restoration of the Nation's CI/KR.

DHS and other Federal departments and agencies are also engaged in a comprehensive national cyberspace security awareness campaign to remove impediments to sharing vulnerability information among security partners. This campaign includes audience-specific awareness materials, expansion of the Stay Safe Online campaign, and development of awards programs for those in industry that make significant contributions to the effort.

### Enabling Education, Training, and Exercise Programs

Building the requisite individual and organizational expertise requires attracting, training, and maintaining sufficient numbers of professionals who have the particular expertise unique or essential to CI/KR protection. This, in turn, requires individual education and training to develop and maintain the requisite levels of expertise through technical, academic, and professional development programs. It also requires organizational training and exercises to develop the requisite organizational-level expertise.

#### Types of Expertise for CI/KR Protection

The NIPP focuses special emphasis on the types of expertise that are unique to or essential for CI/KR protection. Obtaining and maintaining this expertise will require specialized training programs. These include:

- Risk assessment and risk management and related concepts used in business continuity planning;
- Cost-benefit analysis to inform risk management priorities;
- Analysis of insider threats to CI/KR and applicable countermeasures;
- Analysis of physical and cyber threats to CI/KR, including control systems;
- CI/KR dependency and interdependency analyses;
- International aspects of CI/KR protection;
- Best practices and technical capabilities for CI/KR protection, business continuity, and resiliency; and
- Best practices and technical capabilities for information sharing and protection.

#### Individual Education and Training

The NIPP recognizes the importance of leveraging existing accredited academic programs, professional certification standards, and technical training programs that are in place for the more mature and established disciplines. Whether CI/KR protection disciplines are established or newly evolving, they must include the technical, academic, and professional skill sets upon which the NIPP and Sector-Specific Plans (SSPs) are dependent. This requires an effort

with a national scope that includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Technical training to provide individuals with the skills needed to perform their roles and responsibilities under the NIPP;
- Academic and research programs that result in formal degrees from accredited institutions; and
- Professional continuing education, which incorporates the latest advances in CI/KR risk management.

DHS, in close coordination with other Federal agencies and security partners, is developing a CI/KR protection qualification course designed to establish a "baseline" qualification curriculum for Federal employees who perform CI/KR duties in the field (CI/KR Protection Specialists, Protective Security Advisors, etc.) and in doing so provide the required reference point or standards for persons performing CI/KR protection duties.

#### Organizational Training and Exercises

Building and maintaining organizational and sector expertise requires a comprehensive exercise and training program to test the interactions between the NIPP and National Response Plan in the context of a terrorist incident, natural disaster, and other emergencies. National-level programs include the National Exercise Program, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program, and National Cyber Exercises.

#### Training Resources

The following resources are available to security partners and the public to help build national awareness of the NIPP and to foster implementation of CI/KR protection initiatives:

- **NIPP Online Training Tool:** The purpose of the NIPP online training tool is to introduce the NIPP in a structured, detailed manner so that the user understands it and can apply it in practice.
- **NIPP Awareness Training Video:** The intent of the video is to provide senior-level security partners with a high-level overview of NIPP concepts and a clear message on what the private sector can do to enhance CI/KR protection in partnership with Federal, State, local, and tribal government.

To obtain the NIPP Online Training Tool or NIPP Awareness Training Video, please contact the NIPP Program Management Office at [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov).



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For questions or more information, please contact [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov) or visit [www.dhs.gov/nipp](http://www.dhs.gov/nipp).