State Partnership- Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection

Summary

The Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) is a public-private partnership established to better integrate critical infrastructure owners/operators with the all-hazards emergency preparedness process. APIPs members include all sectors with an emphasis on interoperability process improvements. APIP is a full partner within the municipal, state and federal emergency preparedness process.

Background

An evolution of the Critical Infrastructure Committee of the Federal/State Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council - Alaska established after September 11, 2001, APIP was formed in November 2004 with a core workgroup sponsored by Alaskan Command, State of Alaska Office of Emergency Preparedness (now the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management), and a small group of infrastructure owners.

From the beginning, the private sector's stake has been the focal point of the organization. The private sector owns the majority of all critical infrastructures and therefore must be fully engaged in the collective security process. APIP seeks to combine the missions of government and the private sector into a collaborative alliance that works toward a common homeland security objective, providing a forum where analysis and information sharing procedures can be developed and members willingly share propriety data in order to build trust between competitors and regulators.

Goals & Objectives

Specific goals are set for APIP annually under the overarching objective to enhance private sector emergency preparedness for all-hazards through information sharing and preparedness activities. Specific goals for the 2010-2011 Season (September – May) are: improve the comprehensive assessment of critical infrastructure through increasing and broadening APIP membership, increase sector membership within the food and beverage and water and wastewater sectors, increase membership regionally to include Southeast and Northern regions of Alaska, increase and broaden internal communications, and increase the understanding of all applicable Response Frameworks.

Description

APIP is voluntary and open to infrastructure owner/operators, those with governance over the infrastructure/sector, or government entities that depend upon the infrastructure.

In order to achieve the necessary level of functional/sector expertise, APIP encourages mid to senior level operations and security staff participation/representation. This commitment helps ensure time invested is focused on accomplishing meaningful objectives. For example, one critical product produced by APIP is a comprehensive, threat/hazard based infrastructure *State Partnership- Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection*

assessment with recommendations for security or response actions to the government led response organization

APIP is currently established with eleven specified infrastructure sectors: Communications/Information Technology, Finance, Electric Power, Transportation, Medical, Tourism, Water and Wastewater, Oil & Natural Gas, Food and Beverage, Public Safety and Security and Recovery. Sector membership consists of representative firms and applicable government agencies. APIP critical infrastructure sectors are similar to the sectors defined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

APIP's purpose is to improve collaboration and interoperability with respect to: Information sharing / Information Management, planning and response process improvement, Resource Management / Resource Typing, Infrastructure sector characterization to understand vulnerabilities, dependencies, and single points of failure, cyber security, continuity of operations planning, team building and partnering. To accomplish these broad mission areas, APIP conducts infrastructure analysis to determine sector vulnerabilities, compiles infrastructure maps, shares infrastructure information, provides a planning and response environment for critical infrastructure resource holders, develops internal communications procedures, makes recommendations for methods of support and recovery, and conducts various types of internal exercises and training opportunities

In 2007, the DHS Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) was adopted as the primary method for information sharing with an initial communication goal to develop a system of alerting and reporting that enhanced coordination between member organizations, sector leadership, and government agencies and resulted in improved mission assurance of critical infrastructure within Alaska.

The core success of APIP can be pinned on the persistence of those who believed in the requirement to share in the responsibility of protecting the infrastructure. Five years after APIP's inception, the FEMA approved State of Alaska; *State Homeland Security Strategy 2009* acknowledged the organization's continued expansion stating: "APIP provides a forum for the public and private sectors to share information and develop strategy for continuity of services including energy, medical services, and other vital sectors."

Requirements for Success

Trust is the necessary ingredient for the partnership - it allows private sector and governmental organizations to collectively seek a solution that respects proprietary data as well as solve information management and interoperable network issues impeding Alaska critical infrastructure mission requirements. Through trust, a continuous and open two way communication exists between the members.

Reliable voice and data communications are vital. The Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Alaska-APIP Portal ensures the ability for APIP members to collaborate simultaneously with each other and other federal, state, and local agencies, both in routine and emergency situations. APIP has developed a set of standard electronic, formatted reports that provide a *State Partnership-Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection*

framework that ensures that the organization considers all important data items and allows the members to find desired information in a predictable location and to respond with assessments and enhanced decision making.

Information sharing and protection of that information is a fundamental tenet of APIP. To the degree possible, APIP collects and maintains accurate data for emergency response contingencies.

- APIP partners are expected to protect member information as if it was their own.

- APIP partners are encouraged to provide periodic overviews of their operations and how it relates to other sectors.

- APIP partners are encouraged to support training and exercise opportunities as offered.

- APIP partners are encouraged to conduct sector specific business within the APIP framework and relate summarized results to the general membership

- APIP partners are encouraged to participate in APIP governance and program activities

APIP members access their Alaska-APIP page inside the State portal regularly, and physically meet every third Thursday of the month during the APIP season, September to May. Additional meetings dedicated to specific sectors, training, and exercises are held on a quarterly basis. This routine collaboration and robust mutual interest has helped overcome the lack of dedicated funding. Meeting face to face enables the members to get to know each other and for them to interface with each other in an environment where everyone has the same goals of preparedness and working together to solve infrastructure protection issues.

APIP is a thriving collaboration due to the dedication of its members. The benefit of APIP would not exist without the commitment of every organization to taking a leap and trusting competitors and governmental agencies with sensitive information.

APIP does not solicit any funding – the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Alaskan Command/Joint Task Force- Alaska donate the time of the Coordination Team, AT&T Alascom donates the meeting room and associated set-up, and all of the organizations donate the time and expertise of their subject matter experts.

Resources

APIP has the following resources available through its partnership- Resources to help prepare form respond to, and recover from disasters; web resources; tools and templates; other-training and workshops.

Training and Exercises

APIP has hosted multiple 4 hour virtual exercises using the Alaska-APIP Portal and standardized forms covering topics such as volcanic eruption, communications failure, and a novel "cash only" scenario. APIP also participated in the 6 day Alaska Shield/Vigilant Guard/Arctic Edge 2010 State-wide exercise examining the impacts of a major earthquake in the Anchorage area. *State Partnership- Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection*

In-depth training opportunities on Cyber Security and Critical Employee Emergency Planning are a few of the extra-ordinary training topics that have been offered to the group.

Communication Tools

APIP uses the following methods of communication with their public/private sectors; email alerts; in-person meetings, monthly meetings nine months out of the year; teleconferences and video conferences; website.

Links

www.ak-prepared.com/apip/default.htm

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