2016 *National Preparedness Report*
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *National Preparedness Report* provides all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public with practical insights into preparedness to support decisions about program priorities, resource allocations, and community actions. The 2016 *National Preparedness Report* identifies cross-cutting findings that evaluate core capability performance, key findings in the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery mission areas, and notable examples of preparedness progress over the past five years.

········What is the National Preparedness Report?········

The *National Preparedness Report* is an annual requirement of *Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness*. The report evaluates and measures gains individuals and communities, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of governments have made in preparedness and identifies where challenges remain. The 2016 *National Preparedness Report* focuses primarily on preparedness activities undertaken or reported during 2015 and summarizes progress in building, sustaining, and delivering the 32 core capabilities outlined in the *National Preparedness Goal*.

Cross Cutting Findings ·····································

The *National Preparedness Report* identifies three cross-cutting findings by evaluating current core capability performance (e.g., assessments, exercises) and indicators of future capability demand.

Three core capabilities have demonstrated acceptable levels of performance, but face performance declines if not maintained to address emerging challenges. These capabilities to sustain are Planning; Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services; and Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment.

States and territories continue to be more prepared to achieve their targets for Response core capabilities, while they are least prepared to meet their targets in the Recovery mission area.

Four core capabilities remain national areas for improvement— Cybersecurity, Economic Recovery, Housing, and Infrastructure Systems. Two additional core capabilities—Natural and Cultural Resources, and Supply Chain Integrity and Security— emerged as new national areas for improvement.

Key Findings ···

The 2016 *National Preparedness Report* includes 37 key findings across the five mission areas. The key findings are based on qualitative and quantitative data from all levels of government and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Prevention

The Prevention mission area prepares the Nation to avoid, prevent, or stop an imminent terrorist attack within the United States—such as the December 2015 attack in San Bernardino, California. A key finding in this mission area is:

- *Recent terrorist attacks exemplify the difficulty in successfully uncovering plots by self-radicalized individuals, who foreign terrorist organizations are inspiring to action.*
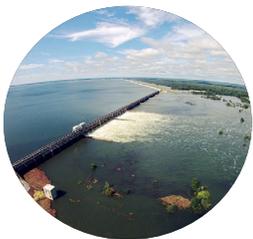
Protection

The Protection mission area secures the homeland against acts of terrorism and manmade or natural disasters. Malicious cyber activities and active-shooter incidents tested Protection capabilities in 2015, including the discovery of a breach in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's systems. Select key findings in this mission area include:

- *Despite increasing investments and improvements in cybersecurity information sharing, training, and countermeasures, major breaches in both public and private sectors underscore how vulnerable systems are to cyber threats, with major implications for protecting personal identity information, as well as national security.*

- *Partnerships to plan and coordinate whole-of-government efforts toward countering violent extremism are expanding, but how effectively these efforts will stem the radicalization and recruitment of Americans by foreign terrorist organizations is unknown.*

- *Federal agencies and private-sector partners are working to improve coordination for protective measures related to complex, coordinated attacks.*

Mitigation

The Mitigation mission area reduces loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Severe weather events in 2015, such as a destructive winter storm in New England and significant flooding in South Carolina, highlighted the importance of building these capabilities. Select key findings in this mission area include:

- *Climate change contributions to extreme weather and sea level rise pose growing risks to critical infrastructure. Moreover, climate change can increase health-related risks by contributing to more intense heat waves and facilitating the spread of diseases, as well as increase poverty and political instability by impacting food security. Members of the public and private sectors are increasingly taking steps to address these risks by reducing their vulnerabilities and preparing for the consequences.*

- *While individual preparedness is a key element of community resilience, national surveys continue to highlight the difficulty of successfully engaging the public to avoid or manage risk. Federal agencies and community partners are acting to increase the effectiveness of their messages by targeting individual communities and tying preparedness messages to notable events.*

- *While new research stemming from recent events demonstrates the value of mitigation, the Federal Government has not developed a strategic approach to promote mitigation activities.*

Response

The Response mission area saves lives, protects property and the environment, and meets basic human needs after an incident has occurred. In 2015, several events stressed Response capabilities, including a major avian influenza outbreak and the worst wildland fire season since at least 1960. Select key findings in this mission area include:

- *The severity of the 2015 wildland fire season, which set a record for the total number of acres burned, strained fire suppression resources at all levels of government. Moreover, current and predicted trends regarding the frequency and severity of fires, as well as increasing growth at the interface of developed and natural areas, require increased preparedness efforts.*

- *The 2015 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak was the largest animal health emergency in U.S. history and revealed biosecurity and waste management gaps in the response to these types of events, including those posing a potential risk to human health.*

- *Federal, state, and local health partners began addressing the challenges that emerged from responding to the Ebola virus disease in 2014 (e.g., appropriate use of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers, research and development of medical countermeasures), but the outbreak highlights the need to sustain and build these capabilities for other infectious disease outbreaks.*

Recovery

The Recovery mission area maintains and restores important community assets after an incident, such as housing, infrastructure, businesses, and health and social services, as well as ensures consideration for natural and cultural resources. In 2015, events such as severe storms and flooding in the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota demonstrated the adaptability of Recovery capabilities to unique challenges in a community. Select key findings in this mission area include:

- *While public- and private-sector partners made incremental improvements to the resiliency of transportation and other systems, ongoing deficiencies in critical infrastructure systems such as aging water mains and deteriorating drinking-water pipelines can amplify challenges in recovering from a disaster.*

- *Housing remains a national area for improvement for the fifth consecutive National Preparedness Report. Despite progress in addressing the disaster housing needs of low-income families, numerous structural problems remain in meeting survivor requirements for housing, from response through long-term recovery.*

- *Federal agencies have developed new guidance, courses, and training to assist all levels of government in addressing recovery shortfalls identified in previous state and territory self-assessments. Federal partners continue to integrate and institutionalize concepts identified in the National Disaster Recovery Framework at state and local levels.*

Multi-Year Progress ··

This report marks the fifth National Preparedness Report since the President issued Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness in 2011, and the Nation has achieved significant improvements in national preparedness over that time. Notable examples include:

- **Prevention**: Expanding the use and accuracy of biometrics through the achievement of full operational status for the Next Generation Identification Program

- **Protection**: Improving resilience to cybersecurity risks through increased availability of training and resources, and increased information sharing between the Federal Government and the private sector

- **Mitigation**: Enhancing the connection between the Mitigation and Recovery mission areas by encouraging resilient building practices through post-disaster funding

- **Response**: Extending the coverage of an integrated set of public alert and warning capabilities to a larger portion of the country

- **Recovery**: Strengthening Federal coordination of recovery assistance, including environmental and historic preservation reviews, in order to expedite the recovery process

Future reports will continue to evaluate the extent to which all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public have addressed areas for improvement and strengthened the security and resilience of the Nation.

·········What is the National Preparedness Goal?·········

The *National Preparedness Goal* defines what it means for the Nation to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. The Goal itself, which was first released in 2011 and updated in 2015, is:

> A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

The Goal identifies 32 necessary and distinct activities, called core capabilities, to address the greatest risks facing the Nation. The Goal organizes these core capabilities into five mission areas—Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery.

In 2015, the Goal underwent a review and update based on lessons learned, real-world events, and results from the first four *National Preparedness Reports*. While the Goal itself did not change, this refresh added a new core capability, Fire Management and Suppression, to provide greater visibility on firefighting capabilities and operations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and other agencies also revised select core capability titles and definitions to provide additional detail and clarification. Together, these changes will help ensure that the Goal stays relevant to everyone and guides preparedness activities across the Nation.

Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
		Planning		
		Public Information and Warning		
		Operational Coordination		
Intelligence and Information Sharing		Community Resilience	Infrastructure Systems	
Interdiction and Disruption		Long-term Vulnerability Reduction	Critical Transportation	Economic Recovery
Screening, Search, and Detection		Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment	Environmental Response/Health and Safety	Health and Social Services
Forensics and Attribution	Access Control and Identity Verification	Threats and Hazards Identification	Fatality Management Services	Housing
	Cybersecurity		Fire Management and Suppression	Natural and Cultural Resources
	Physical Protective Measures		Logistics and Supply Chain Management	
	Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities		Mass Care Services	
	Supply Chain Integrity and Security		Mass Search and Rescue Operations	
			On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement	
			Operational Communications	
			Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services	
			Situational Assessment	