

National Strategy for Homeland Security

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The United States **National Strategy for Homeland Security** is a formal government response to the events of September 11, 2001 at the Pentagon and World Trade Center. The document issued by President George W. Bush outlines the overall strategic considerations for cooperation between the federal government, states, private enterprises, and ordinary citizens in anticipating future terrorism attacks as well as natural disasters and other incidents of national significance.^[1] The National Response Framework is the part of the homeland security national strategy that is a Comprehensive Emergency Management guideline for implementing scalable responses to disasters and other incidents of national significance.

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Objectives

The three primary objectives of the National Strategy for Homeland Security are:

- to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- to reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism; and
- to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur.

The order of these objectives determine a priority for action within the strategy, where the strategic assumption is that a terrorist attack within the United States is not an impossible event.^[2]

Implementation

One of the first steps in implementing the strategy was the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

According to the "Homeland Security and National Security" section of the national strategy document:^[3]

“ The Preamble to the Constitution defines our federal government's basic purposes as “... to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” The requirement to provide for the common defense

remains as fundamental today as it was when these words were written, more than two hundred years ago.

The National Security Strategy of the United States aims to guarantee the sovereignty and independence of the United States, with our fundamental values and institutions intact. It provides a framework for creating and seizing opportunities that strengthen our security and prosperity. The *National Strategy for Homeland Security* complements the *National Security Strategy of the United States* by addressing a very specific and uniquely challenging threat – terrorism in the United States – and by providing a comprehensive framework for organizing the efforts of federal, state, local and private organizations whose primary functions are often unrelated to national security.

NIMS/ICS

Generally, the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides local guidance on implementing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) for local handling of emergency responses. As responses use up local resources, state and federal resources are mobilized under the National Response Framework, so that operational priorities are met during emergency responses of increasing size and complexity. All of these response activities are within the overall scope of the National Strategy for Homeland Security, whether emergency incidents are the result of terrorism or failure to respond may cause increased vulnerability to terrorism that may occur later.

References

- Office of Homeland Security, *National Strategy for Homeland Security* (July 2002), available at http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/nat_strat_hls.pdf

Notes

1. ^ NSHS page vii "Executive Summary"
2. ^ NSHS page 3
3. ^ NSHS page 5

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Categories: Disaster preparedness in the United States | Emergency management
| United States Department of Homeland Security | Disaster stubs

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ESF COORDINATING, PRIMARY, AND SUPPORT DESIGNATIONS

Table 2. Designation of ESF Coordinator and Primary and Support Agencies

Agency	Emergency Support Functions														
	# 1 - Transportation	# 2 - Communications	# 3 - Public Works and Engineering	# 4 - Firefighting	# 5 - Emergency Management	# 6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	# 7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support	# 8 - Public Health and Medical Services	# 9 - Search and Rescue	# 10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	# 11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	# 12 - Energy	# 13 - Public Safety and Security	# 14 - Long-Term Community Recovery	# 15 - External Affairs
USDA	S		S		S	S	S	S	S	S	C/P/S	S		P	S
USDA/FS	S	S	S	C/P	S	S	S	S	S	S			S		
DOC	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
DOD	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	S	S	S	S	S
DOD/USACE	S		C/P	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
ED					S										S
DOE	S		S		S	S	S	S		S	S	C/P	S	S	S
HHS			S		S	S	S	C/P	S	S	S		S	S	S
DHS	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	C
DHS/FEMA	S	P	P	S	C/P	C/P/S	C/P	S	C/P	S	S			C/P	P
DHS/NCS		C/P					S				S				
DHS/USCG	S		S	S				S	P	P		S	S		
HUD					S	S								P	S
DOI	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	S	P/S	S	S	S	S
DOJ	S				S	S	S	S	S	S	S		C/P		S
DOL			S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S
DOS	S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S

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C = ESF coordinator P = Primary agency S = Support agency

Note: Components or offices within a department or agency are not listed on this chart unless they are the ESF coordinator or a primary agency. Refer to the ESF Annexes for details.

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	#1 - Transportation	#2 - Communications	#3 - Public Works and Engineering	#4 - Firefighting	#5 - Emergency Management	#6 - Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	#7 - Logistics Management and Resource Support	#8 - Public Health and Medical Services	#9 - Search and Rescue	#10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	#11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources	#12 - Energy	#13 - Public Safety and Security	#14 - Long-Term Community Recovery	#15 - External Affairs
DOT	C/P		S		S	S	S	S		S	S	S	S	S	S
TREAS					S	S							S	S	S
VA			S		S	S	S	S					S	S	S
EPA			S	S	S	S			C/P	S	S	S	S	S	S
FCC	S	S	S		S										S
GSA	S	S	S		S	S	C/P		S	S	S				S
NASA					S		S	S				S			S
NRC			S		S				S			S			S
OPM					S		S								S
SBA					S	S								P	S
SSA					S	S							S		S
TVA			S		S							S			S
USAID								S							S
USPS	S				S	S		S		S	S		S		S
ACHP										S	S				
ARC			S		S	S		S		S	S			S	
CNCS			S			S								S	
DRA															
HENTF											S				
NARA											S				
NVOAD						S									S

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