Emergency Services Sector-Specific Plan

The Emergency Services Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) guides and integrates not only the sector's efforts to secure and strengthen the resilience of the sector, but also the sector's contributions to national critical infrastructure security and resilience as set forth in Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21).

Emergency Services Sector Overview

The Emergency Services Sector, one of 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified in the *National Infrastructure Protection Plan 2013: Partnering for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience* (NIPP 2013), includes a diverse array of disciplines and capabilities that enables a wide range of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery services to serve and protect the Nation's critical infrastructure as well as the American public. As its operations provide the first line of defense for nearly all critical infrastructure sectors, a failure or disruption in the Emergency Services Sector (ESS) could result in significant harm or loss of life, major public health issues, long-term economic loss, and cascading disruptions to other critical infrastructure.

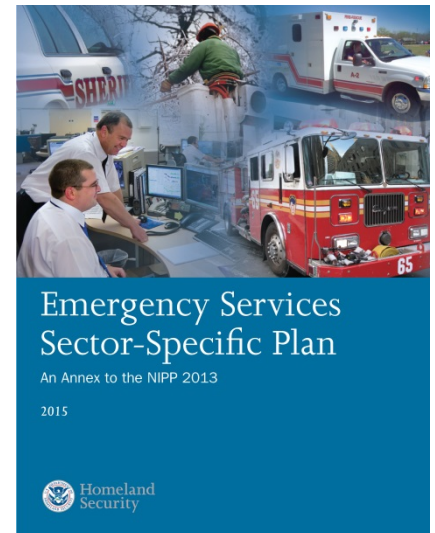**Sector-Specific Plan for Emergency Services (DHS image)**

Current Risks

Natural disasters and extreme weather; cyberattacks or disruptions; violent extremist and terrorist attacks; and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents are persistent risks to the sector. Risks associated with cyberattacks continue to grow as sector reliance on cyber systems for emergency operations communication, data management, biometric activities, telecommunications, and electronic security systems increases. Increased public expectations for ESS expertise and rapid response capabilities and reduced grant funding constraining State and local resources both contribute to the risk profile of the sector.

Sector-Specific Plan Goals and Priorities

Led by the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council (SCC), and Government Coordinating Council (GCC), the SSP represents a collaborative effort among the private sector; State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; non-governmental organizations; and Federal departments and agencies to work toward achieving shared goals and priorities and to address the unique operating conditions and risk landscape of the Emergency Services Sector.

The sector's goals for the next four years reflect the strategic direction of the sector and support the Joint National Priorities developed in 2014 by the national council structures described in NIPP 2013:

1. Partnership Engagement – Continuous growth and improvement of sector partnerships, which enable the sector to effectively sustain collaborative dialogues to address risk mitigation and resilience efforts within the sector.

2. Situational Awareness – Support an information-sharing environment that ensures the availability and flow of accurate, timely, and relevant sector information, intelligence, and incident reporting.
3. Prevention, Preparedness, and Protection – Employ a risk-based approach to improve the preparedness and resilience of the sector's overall capacity to perform its mission through targeted decisions and initiatives.
4. Recovery and Reconstitution – Improve the operational capacity, sustainability, and resilience of the sector and increase the speed and efficiency of restoration of normal services and activity following an incident.

What's New in the 2015 Sector-Specific Plan?

Updates in this SSP include addressing the nexus between cyber and physical security, interdependence between various critical infrastructure sectors, risks associated with climate change, aging and outdated infrastructure, and more.

How to Use the Sector-Specific Plan

Government and industry partners in the ESS can use this SSP to develop individual paths forward as they address security challenges and build resilience within their unique risk management perspectives, priorities, and resources. This SSP also includes metrics that Emergency Services partners can use to measure their progress as they enhance the security and resilience of their facilities.

Contact

To read the Emergency Services SSP, visit http://www.dhs.gov/publication/nipp-ssp-emergency-services-2015.

For more information, visit the Emergency Services Sector Website at http://www.dhs.gov/emergency-services-sector or email the Emergency Services Sector at essteam@hq.dhs.gov.