



EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR-SPECIFIC TABLETOP EXERCISE PROGRAM



OVERVIEW

The Emergency Services Sector-Specific Tabletop Exercise Program (ES SSTEP) is a tool that allows Emergency Services Sector organizations to develop interactive, discussion-based exercises for their communities of interest, be it at the sector or facility level. ES SSTEP affords the opportunity for public and private critical infrastructure stakeholders and their public safety partners to exercise information sharing processes and incident management plans, programs, policies, and procedures in order to address potential gaps, vulnerabilities, and other pertinent issues.

SCOPE

ES SSTEP allows users to leverage pre-built exercise templates and tailor them to their communities' specific needs in order to assess, develop, and update plans, programs, policies, and procedures within an incident management functional area.

- Sector-specific tabletop exercises have been used by several critical infrastructure sectors, including the Dams Sector, the Chemical Sector, and the Commercial Facilities Sector.
- ES SSTEP materials provide a model exercise and support documentation that can be refined and further developed to exercise and evaluate specific areas of concern for critical infrastructure owners and operators.
- ES SSTEP is a flexible tool that is most beneficial when personalized and developed by the end user with considerations to the specific nuances of the community.
- It is used to develop a culture of improved information sharing capabilities within and between public and private sectors at the facility, community, or sector level.
- It promotes partnership development through the collaboration of sector-specific experts and the use of integrated resources.
- It enables the development of after-action reports that support mitigating risks and increasing the resiliency of critical infrastructure.

ES SSTEP CONTENTS

The Program provides templates and materials that can be refined and detailed to meet the specific needs of any critical infrastructure community. The draft materials provided include a Welcome Letter, Invitation Letter, Exercise Planner Instructions, Facilitator and Evaluator Handbook, Situation Manual, Presentation Slides, Reference Material, Participant Feedback Form, and Exercise Planner Feedback Form.

ES SSTEP EXERCISES AVAILABLE ON HSIN

- Twisted Fate
- Cyber
- Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device

For more information visit the [CISA Emergency Services Sector webpage](#) or email EmergencyServicesSector@cisa.dhs.gov.

