



# The Infrastructure Dependency Primer



DEFEND TODAY,  
SECURE TOMORROW

## OVERVIEW

The **Infrastructure Dependency Primer (IDP)** provides a foundation for understanding *critical infrastructure*, identifying *dependencies*, and improving *resilience through planning*. This informative primer is a supplement to the Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (IRPF) and is intended to help state and local planners better understand how infrastructure dependencies can impact risk and resilience in their community and how they can incorporate that knowledge into ongoing planning activities.

## A WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

The IDP is an online educational resource available to the public through the CISA website at [cisa.gov/idp](https://cisa.gov/idp). The primer is organized into three primary sections, which aim to answer fundamental questions users may have regarding infrastructure, dependencies, and resilience planning:

**Learn:** WHAT ARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEPENDENCIES AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- Consider what functions and services are essential to your community
- Understand what infrastructure systems support those functions and services
- Discover how these systems depend on each other and how dependencies can impact risk and resilience

**Plan:** WHAT IS RESILIENCE, HOW DOES IT RELATE TO DEPENDENCIES, AND HOW DO I PLAN FOR IT?

- Gain an understanding of resilience and how it can be realized through planning
- Recognize the role of infrastructure stakeholders in planning for resilience
- Learn ways to identify critical dependencies and how to incorporate them into existing planning at the local and regional level

**Implement:** WHAT RESOURCES ARE THERE TO HELP ME REDUCE DEPENDENCY RISKS AND ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF MY COMMUNITY?

- Consider the different actions that can be developed to reduce dependency risks and improve resilience
- Investigate a few case studies to see how other communities have integrated infrastructure dependencies and resilience solutions into planning
- Find resources you can use to build resilience in your community or region

The IDP is meant to be independently explored by users based on their interests and needs but can also be adapted to interactive group learning sessions. For ideal learning, it is recommended that the IDP be explored in the order that topics are presented on the site; however, the various sections of the primer can be referenced by users at any time, as desired. No prerequisite training or knowledge is needed to benefit from review of IDP content.

For questions regarding the Infrastructure Dependency Primer or to learn more about infrastructure resilience planning and assessment, contact the Infrastructure Security Division (ISD) Infrastructure Development and Recovery Program at [IDR@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:IDR@cisa.dhs.gov).