



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) conducts various assessments to identify vulnerabilities, interdependencies, capabilities, and cascading effects of impacts on the Nation's critical infrastructure to help critical infrastructure owners and operators better prevent, deter, and mitigate risk in an all-hazards environment. The effectiveness of these assessments depends on the voluntary collaboration of Federal, State, local, and private sector owners and operators.

### Assist Visits

Assist Visits are a cornerstone of the voluntary outreach effort to critical infrastructure owners and operators. An Assist Visit, conducted by Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) alongside critical infrastructure facility representatives, establishes and enhances the DHS relationship with critical infrastructure owners and operators, informs them of the importance of their facility, and explains how their facility or service fits into its specific critical infrastructure sector. In addition, the Assist Visit provides an overview of the IP resources available to the facility to enhance security and resilience, and reinforces the need for continued vigilance. These relationships serve to increase communications and information sharing, enhance sector security, and provide facility owners and operators access to various Federal tools and resources.



**Officials preparing to conduct an assessment at a facility  
(Source: DHS)**

### Infrastructure Survey Tool

One of these IP resources available to facility owners and operators is the Infrastructure Survey Tool (IST). The IST is a voluntary, web-based vulnerability survey conducted by the PSA to identify and document the overall security and resilience of the facility. The vulnerability survey information is provided to the owners and operators via the IST Dashboard and a written report. The survey data, which is composed of weighted scores on a variety of factors for specific critical infrastructure, is graphically displayed in the IST Dashboard that compares the data against similar facilities and informs protective measures, resilience planning, and resource allocation. In addition to providing a sector security and resilience overview, the Dashboards highlight areas of potential concern and feature options to view the impact of potential enhancements to protection and resilience measures. The written report, developed from the IST data, contains a description of the facility and its vulnerabilities as well as recommendations to mitigate identified vulnerabilities. The information is protected under the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program and is used by DHS for steady-state analysis, special event planning, and incident management.

### Contact Information

For more information on the Assist Visit, or to contact your local PSA, please email [NICC@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:NICC@hq.dhs.gov).