



Preparedness Training Strategic Plan for Iowa 2006 Update

Purpose

Iowa's Preparedness Training Strategic Plan was developed from a core need expressed by many for Iowa's workforce to be informed, educated, trained, and well-prepared for any emergency event. Developed by consensus of representatives of an array of stakeholders statewide, it is not the product of a government agency, nor does the plan carry mandates for any particular organization, discipline, or sector.

Within the plan is a comprehensive view of preparedness training that spans the preventer/responder disciplines and provides assistance to those groups in achieving a variety of preparedness goals. The challenge is for stakeholders to recognize the opportunity afforded by this plan to improve, enhance, and, in some cases, to begin preparedness initiatives with benefits to the community, the state, and to individuals better trained to respond to any event.

The initial plan and this updated plan set out deliberate steps to creating and maintaining a "system" that will foster cross-discipline and cross-sector involvement in preparedness training, ensure quality, and encourage participation on a broad scale. In addition to aiding the many stakeholder groups to work toward compliance with national, regional, and state preparedness goals, the plan focuses on continuing to bring stakeholders to the table in order that they may further mutual understanding and maintain cross-disciplinary contacts and working relationships.

In 2002, an assessment that included a review of existing assessments aided identification of training gaps and emerging needs. The key issues were then addressed within the plan. Among the assessment findings and analysis were:

- § Gaps in understanding and training across disciplines and sectors.
- § Lack of reliable sources of information to select the best and most relevant training.
- § Gaps in preparedness involvement by elected officials and chief executives.
- § Lack of information about and lack of consistency in quality of curriculum and instructors.
- § Lack of "standardized" understanding of the knowledge and expertise level of individuals in the workforce.
- § Waning interest in homeland security threats.
- § Funding constraints and budget reductions.
- § Reduced participation in trainings of all kinds.
- § Turf issues at all levels.

A three-year strategic plan to create and maintain a preparedness training focus by all stakeholders in Iowa was the response to the assessment. A mission and five goals were developed, with strategies and measurable action steps to implement the strategies.

Over the last year, a new assessment was completed to gauge the progress individual agencies had made implementing the plan. This version of the plan represents a 2006 update based

upon national preparedness priorities that were developed as well as lessons learned from the first two years of the original plan's implementation.

Preparedness Training Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies 2006

Goal 1. Preparedness training and exercise will engage the workforce across the state and across disciplines, both traditional and non-traditional, and will promote coordination at all levels.

- 1.1. Reinforce common understanding and practice that training and exercise for the preparedness workforce crosses and integrates various disciplines, jurisdictions, and sectors.
- 1.2. Involve stakeholders representing all preventer/responder disciplines and non-preventer/responder sectors in communications and information exchange.
- 1.3. Strengthen information sharing capabilities by identifying communications interoperability issues and engaging all preventer/responder disciplines in strategic planning to address those issues.
- 1.4. Strengthen collaborative preparedness and response by establishing sustainable and practical venues for input and feedback regarding preparedness training and exercise needs, priorities, and participation.
- 1.5. Build coalitions with other training and preparedness groups in communities and states outside of Iowa, especially in the Midwest.
- 1.6. Identify and address barriers to training and exercise for specific disciplines, regional cooperation, cross-disciplinary efforts, and public/private efforts.
- 1.7. Strengthen understanding in public and private sectors of the value of training for volunteer preventers/responders.

Goal 2. Content of training and exercise will help individuals, organizations, and systems meet preparedness competencies/standards.

- 2.1. Institutionalize the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP), the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS), and the Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) at state and local levels.
- 2.2. Identify and make relevant to Iowa federally developed and funded training and exercise curricula in priority capability areas.
- 2.3. Develop and disseminate tools and templates to assist preventer/responders in compliance with NIMS, HEICS, and/or other training initiatives.

- 2.4. Seek out training opportunities for various disciplines in capability-specific national and regional priority areas, such as Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) Detection, Response, and Contamination (focusing on improved explosive devices); Agroterrorism; Food and Water Security; Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis; Emergency Operations Planning and Citizen Protection; and bring such training to Iowa where possible.

Goal 3. Quality assurance will be maintained through curricula that is of high quality and meets current training and exercise needs and priorities, and through instructors that are competent and current in knowledge and issues.

- 3.1. Establish a sustainable, cross-discipline, statewide system for monitoring the quality of curricula and instructors.
- 3.2. Involve a broad range of stakeholders in endorsing the quality control system for discipline-specific and cross-discipline training curricula and instructors.
- 3.3. Provide and maintain a central point of information about the quality of preparedness training, curricula, and instructors; i.e. provide an “EdTrAC Seal of Approval.”

Goal 4. Training and competencies will be recorded and tracked by a preparedness training management system.

- 4.1. Utilize a Learning Management System (LMS), such as www.prepareiowa.com—whether internal or shared—for the broad range of disciplines and sectors involved with preparedness training.
- 4.2. Develop sustainable ways to continually manage, expand, and maintain the Learning Management Systems for preparedness training for the broad range of disciplines.
- 4.3. Implement cross-discipline use of the Learning Management System for preparedness training of individuals and institutions.

Goal 5. Participation in training and exercise will improve the preparedness of Iowa’s workforce, organizations, and systems.

- 5.1. Expand and focus future funding and sustainability of preparedness training programs in regional, cross-discipline efforts focused on national priorities.
- 5.2. Provide recognition and incentives to individuals, agencies, institutions, and organizations in Iowa for innovative theory and practice in cross-disciplinary and regional preparedness training and exercises.
- 5.3. Identify performance measures that will demonstrate progress toward a better prepared Iowa.