

Developing a National Plan for WMD

Incident Response Among Interagency

Authorities

**U.S. Customs and Border
Protection**

Office of Field Operations

**Cargo and Conveyance Security
Division**

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Objectives

- U.S. Government Response Plans
- Essential elements to a plan
- Realistic planning
- Getting started



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U.S. Response Plans

- **National Incident Management System**

- Incident Command System or ICS – coordinates all actions



- **National Response Plan**

- Central Organization
 - 1) Federal Coordinating Official
 - 2) Principal Federal Official



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U.S. Response Plans – cont'd

- **National Maritime Security Plan**

- Mandated by Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002
- NSMS approved September 2005 – includes 8 plans

- **Maritime Infrastructure Recovery Plan**

- Lessons learned – Hurricane Katrina response

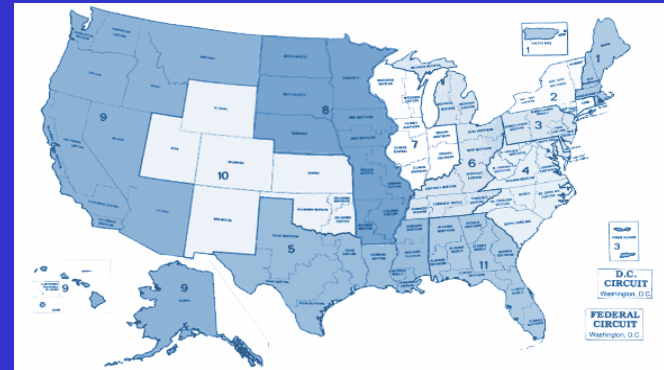
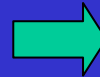


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Essential Elements to a Plan

- **Authorities**

- Geographic jurisdictions
- Authority based jurisdictions



- **Areas of expertise**

- Written Plan
- Assets and resources



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Essential Elements of a Plan – con't

- **Communications**
 - Protocol
 - Alternate means of communications
- **Coordination**
 - NIMS/ICS
- **Immediate response vs. long-term recovery**
 - Immediate - Within first hours
 - Long-Term - Return to as near-normal as possible



Essential Elements of a Plan – con't

- **Lessons learned**
 - After-action evaluation
- **Exercises**
 - Minimum – one annual major exercise
 - Provision for regular exercises



Realistic Planning

- **Inclusive**
 - National level / Local level / Private sector
- **Time Frame**
 - Do not cut short – writing and review process
- **Review**
 - Regular intervals – stick to timelines
 - Hierarchical review process



Realistic Planning – con't

- **Communication**
 - Formal meetings
 - Conference calls
 - Emails

- **Refresh/Lessons Learned**
 - After-action reports
 - Periodic reviews
 - Keep plan dynamic and current



Getting Started

- **Senior leadership buy-in**
 - Assign to right people – experts
 - Full-time commitment
- **Establish a written mandate**
 - Legislative requirement or an executive order
- **Set a reasonable timeline**
 - Unreasonable timelines = unworkable plans



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