



Initial National Response Plan Fact Sheet

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
October 10, 2003

What the Initial National Response Plan does for America's homeland security: The INRP represents a significant first step towards an overall goal of integrating the current family of Federal domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into a single all-discipline, all-hazards plan. The INRP will be supported by the National Incident Management System (NIMS), a national system under development that creates standardized incident management processes, protocols, and procedures. A final NRP will eventually replace the INRP.

How the Initial National Response Plan was created: The Initial National Response Plan was created and vetted by representatives across America including:

- Federal government,
- States,
- Territories,
- Cities, counties and townships,
- Tribal officials,
- First Responders.

What emergency response plans are linked by the Initial National Response Plan:

- Federal Response Plan,
- U.S. Government Interagency Domestic Terrorism Concept of Operations Plan,
- Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan,
- Mass migration response plans,
- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Key Initial National Response Plan Enhancements-Unifying and Improving the Team:

- **National Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC).** The HSOC will serve as the primary national-level hub for operational communications and information pertaining to domestic incident management. Located at DHS headquarters, the HSOC will provide threat monitoring and situational awareness for domestic incident management on a 24/7 basis.
- **Interagency Incident Management Group (IIMG).** The IIMG is made up of senior representatives from Federal departments and agencies, non-governmental organizations, as well as DHS components to facilitate national-level situation awareness, policy coordination, and incident coordination.
- **Principal Federal Official (PFO).** The Secretary may designate a PFO during a domestic incident to serve as the personal representative of DHS locally during an incident. The PFO will oversee and coordinate Federal incident activities and work with local authorities to determine requirements and provide timely Federal assistance.
- **Joint Field Office (JFO).** Federal activities at a local incident site will be integrated during domestic incidents to better facilitate coordination between Federal, state, and local authorities. The JFO is expected to incorporate existing entities such as the Joint Operations Center, the Disaster Field Office, and other Federal offices and teams that provide support on scene.



Homeland Security Secretary Ridge Approves Initial National Response Plan

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U. S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge today announced approval of the Initial National Response Plan (INRP), an interim plan designed to help develop a unified approach to domestic incident management across the Nation. The INRP represents a significant first step towards the overall goal of integrating the current family of Federal domestic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans into a single all-hazards plan.

"I commend the many dedicated professionals from state and local governments, law enforcement, and the fire and emergency management communities, tribal associations, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations across America who all worked with the Department to develop this initial unified plan," Ridge said. "Their efforts and this Initial National Response Plan make America better prepared by integrating the emergency response plans that cover terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. As this effort further evolves, our homeland security effort will be guided by the concept of one plan, one team, and one fight."

The Initial National Response Plan strengthens America's emergency response process by harmonizing existing Federal response plan activities with incident management leadership responsibilities assigned by President Bush to Secretary Ridge through Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5. As a result, our Nation's responders will now be supported with new incident management capability including:

- Establishment of a permanent Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) to serve as the primary national-level hub for domestic incident management communications and operations;
- An Interagency Incident Management Group (IIMG) during domestic incidents to facilitate national-level situation awareness, policy coordination, and incident coordination;
- Designation of a Homeland Security Department Principal Federal Official (PFO) to oversee Federal assistance efforts locally during domestic incidents;
- Establishment of a Joint Field Office during domestic incidents to better integrate the Federal response in support of state, and local authorities.

In addition to the new emergency planning measures established by the INRP, the Department of Homeland Security and responders from around the Nation continue development of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which will create additional standardized coordination procedures for incident managers. A final National Response Plan is under development and will eventually replace the INRP.

The attached fact sheet details major INRP enhancements and facts. The INRP is also attached.