Columbus Urban Area

Homeland Security Advisory Committee

HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY

Purpose

This plan will serve as the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) strategy for Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of this strategy is to implement the National Preparedness Guidelines, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and a Tactical Interoperable Communications plan into a strategic direction for enhancing regional capability and capacity to protect, prevent, respond, and recover from all hazard incidents. This exceedingly complex mission requires coordination, cooperation and focused effort from the entire region including citizens, local, state, and federal government, as well as our private and non-profit sector partners. This strategy was developed based upon the results of the Columbus UA regional target capability assessment. The assessment included a comprehensive risk, capabilities, needs assessment, and asset inventory. The Franklin County Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) will apply the resources available from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs to assist in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to protect, prevent, respond to and recover from all hazard threats or acts of terrorism.

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Vision

Through the development and implementation of this strategy the Columbus UA will maintain an organized, equipped, trained and exercised regional approach enabling responders to protect, prevent, detect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazard incidents commensurate with risk.

Focus

The Columbus UA will employ a regional approach to planning, training, equipping, exercising and organizing first responders to protect, prevent, respond to, and recover from all hazard incidents. We will coordinate our efforts with all disciplines including citizens and private sector partners to meet the National Preparedness Guidelines by incorporating the National Response Framework, employing the National Incident Management System (NIMS), maintaining a Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Plan, enhancing our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), implementing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIP) and working toward Tier II level of the eight priority target capabilities to strengthen our regional capacity.

Coordination

The Mayor of Columbus and Franklin County Commissioners designated Richard Bash and Kathy Crandall respectively as the UA points of contact for the UASI program. The UA Authorities and POCS then designated the Franklin County Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) as the Urban Area Workgroup. The HSAC is an appointed body that includes the POC's and representatives of Emergency Management, County Engineer, Public Works, Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association, Franklin County Police Chiefs Association, Public Health, Hospitals, Communications, private industry, the Municipal Mayor's Association, Port Columbus Regional Port Authority, Citizen Corps, and the Ohio State University. The workgroup is responsible for assessing our target capabilities, defining assets and identifying needs. They perform a bi-annual review of our progress toward meeting the National Preparedness Goal and revise the UASI Strategy accordingly. The refined strategy is presented to the Mayor, County Commissioners, CEO's of the political sub-divisions and the Franklin County Criminal Justice Planning Board for comment annually.

Effort

The Franklin County HSAC is a legislatively appointed multi-jurisdictional, multidisciplinary team responsible for guiding the strategy development and sustainment process to address planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises among emergency responders in the UA. This group includes representatives from LE, EMS, EMA, FS, HazMat, PW, GA, PSC, HC, and PH. Each member serves as a subject matter expert to define existing assets and identify capability gaps needed to be sourced to execute a systems-based approach to meeting the National Preparedness Guidelines.

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Description of Jurisdictions

Citizens, public and private sector partnerships are developed to initiate and sustain extensive planning, ensure tactical interoperable communications, coordinate training, execute effective exercises, and implement incident specific operational plans. Ohio's legislated emergency response intra-state and inter-state compacts along with local mutual aid compacts and automatic response agreements, both formal and informal, trigger the deployment of regional resources. Additionally, in post-incident status, the cooperating entities perform requisite assessments and develop action plans to stabilize the affected area and enable them to resume business, education and government. After-Action reports and lessons learned regional debriefing is standard for all major incidents.

GOALS

Goal 1:

RESPOND: Improve the ability of Emergency Responders to prevent, respond to, and recover from all-hazard incidents.

Goal 2:

PROTECT/PREVENT: Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP).

Goal 3:

PROTECT, RESPOND, RECOVER: Strengthen the regional mass prophylaxis capabilities of Healthcare and Public Health agencies.

Goal 4:

RESPOND and RECOVER: Strengthen the regional medical surge capabilities of Hospitals, Healthcare and Public Health agencies.

Goal 5:

PROTECT, RESPOND, RECOVER: Enhance regional interoperable communications.

Goal 6:

RESPOND: Enhance regional capabilities for CBRNE detection, response, and decontamination capabilities.

Goal 7:

PREVENTION: Strengthen information sharing and collaboration capabilities.

Goal 8:

COMMON - Improve citizen preparedness by increasing the capacity of Citizens Corps and CERT Teams.