

National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council

Draft Work Focus and Program for Calendar Year 2013

I. BACKGROUND

The National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) is an advisory body established by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors. The EPC provides a forum for local, state and federal governmental official collaboration with business, education and community stakeholders on regional emergency planning, coordination and response.

The EPC derives its authority from action by the COG Board on November 13, 2002. The Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) makes policy recommendations to the COG Board and makes procedural or other recommendations directly or through the COG Board to various regional agencies with emergency preparedness responsibilities or operational response authority.

After the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-sponsored Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the EPC later voted to act as the region's UASI-required Urban Area Work Group (UAWG). In this capacity, EPC added federally sponsored coordinating actions to its already existing regional efforts, and continues to function as the region's central coordinating body on emergency preparedness.

The EPC will continue to work in conjunction with the Senior Policy Group, the Chief Administrative Officers, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC), and others in the enhancement of regional preparedness activities and acquisitions. It serves as the custodian of the National Capital Region Homeland Security Strategic Plan, oversees the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP), and helps to coordinate activities of various support function working groups, and assists in the development and conduct of preparedness training and exercises

II. MEMBERSHIP

The EPC is made up of elected officials, COG committee chairs, and representatives of homeland security, emergency management services and transportation, along with the nonprofit and business communities. The EPC is the most broadly defined advisory body in the National Capital Region focused on emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery and is an excellent forum for information exchange, advocacy and policy guidance to public and private sector stakeholders and first-responder agencies.

The EPC is currently comprised of (see also attached roster):

- Nine elected officials representing COG member jurisdictions, at least two each from the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- The Chairs of the COG professional and technical committees of Chief Administrative Officers Committee, Regional Emergency Support Functions and Regional Program Working Groups to include police chiefs, fire chiefs, public health officers, emergency management administrators, Chief Information Officers, attorneys, and other internal COG committees determined to have subject matter jurisdiction over significant aspects of disaster preparation and response;
- The directors of emergency management of the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia;

- Representatives of the Departments of Transportation of the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- The chairs or other designees of the Homeland Security Councils of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia;
- The COG Executive Director; and Representatives of such institutions and agencies of the Federal government and organizations representing the private, quasi-public, and non-profit sectors as may be jointly designated by the Council Chair and the COG Board Chair, and invited to participate, such designations to include the Office of National Capital Region Coordination, the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Washington Area School Study Council, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the American Red Cross of the National Capital Region, the Non-Profit Roundtable of Greater Washington, and others.

III. PRIORITY EPC OBJECTIVES 2013

The priority objectives delineated below represent the EPC's focus for 2013, and provides a strategic framework for the EPC's activities.

OBJECTIVE 1: Enhance NCR Resilience to Cyber Security

- 1.1 Identify best practices for improving cyber security to ensure the provision of critical services. Increase awareness of cyber security vulnerabilities in various sectors across the NCR among those represented on the EPC.
- 1.2 Through a Senior Leadership Seminar (SLS), raise the profile of cyber security and generate actionable prevention and mitigation strategies (April/May 2013) and use the information gained from the SLS to inform the Cyber Security Framework being developed by the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Regional Program Working Group (RPWG).
- 1.3 Improve sector engagement with the CIP RPWG. (The CIP RPWG has responsibility for developing a Cyber Security Framework. Key to successful development and implementation of this framework is appropriate engagement by affected organizations. EPC members can play a key role in identifying individuals and organizations to support the CIP RPWG engagement particularly with the private sector.)

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase Personal Preparedness Through Workplace Based Initiatives

- 2.1 Share Red Cross and FEMA experience and criteria recommended for workplace preparedness with all members of the EPC.
- 2.2 Share best practices by local, state, and federal governments, the private sector, non-profits, and others to improve measurable preparedness through workplace initiatives.
- 2.3 Lead expanded effort for building workforce based personal preparedness efforts in the National Capital Region. Build on the outcomes of the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Behavioral Study and OPM employee preparedness initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide Leadership Review and Support of the NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan and Its Implementation

- 3.1 Serve as custodian of NCR Homeland Security Strategic Plan and adopt update of the plan.

- 3.2 Oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan through quarterly progress reports on financial and management indicators (SAA) and updates on CAO/SPG Management Reviews (CAO HSEC and SPG).
- 3.3 Identify and provide oversight for creation and improvement of regional prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. Specific agenda items to include:
 - 3.3.1 Follow-up on major recommendations found in the Incident Management and Response (IMR) Report.
 - 3.3.2 Follow-up on June 29, 2012 Derecho Storm After Action Report and 9-1-1 Preliminary/Final Report Recommendations.
 - 3.3.3 Review communications and transportation management capabilities demonstrated during a review winter storm response or other events.
 - 3.3.4 Review Presidential Inauguration AARs with a focus on regional issues.
- 3.4 Serve as the UASI-required Urban Area Work Group (UAWG).

IV. SCHEDULE

The EPC will plan to hold four full meetings and an EPC Senior Leader Seminar in 2013 with ad hoc work sessions being scheduled as necessary. To promote stronger participation by public officials, EPC quarterly meetings will follow the COG Board of Directors meeting on the second Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.:

- February 13
- Senior Leader Seminar (April/May 2013)
- May 8
- September 11
- November 13

V. LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

Consistent with the EPC bylaws, Paul Quander, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice in the District of Columbia was appointed to chair the EPC in 2013 by action of the COG Board of Directors on January 9, 2013. The EPC at its February 13, 2013 meeting may want to appoint two additional vice chairs, one from a local jurisdiction in Maryland and one from a local jurisdiction in Northern Virginia. The EPC continues to review and modify its membership and leadership governance structure as necessary to enable it to fulfill its expanded mission and goals. EPC leadership by local elected or appointed officials remains a priority for the EPC. The EPC and Executive Committee governance structure provides for continuity of leadership and expanded opportunities for Executive Committee participation.

The EPC Executive Committee will meet by conference call approximately one week prior to EPC meetings to review the agenda and provide any recommended enhancements. Also, the EPC Executive Committee will provide guidance to the Emergency Manager's Committee and ETOP in the development and conduct of the EPC Senior Leader Seminar 2013 and to the SPG and CAOs Committee (may be delegated to the Emergency Managers Committee) on the update of local emergency operations plans.