



# Homeland Security

## Hurricane Katrina Impact on the National Preparedness Goal and Target Capabilities List

- Hurricane Katrina engaged much of the emergency community across the Nation in supporting massive response, recovery, and mitigation operations.
- In light of such efforts and the opportunity to incorporate immediate lessons learned, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended the period for review and comment on the National Preparedness Goal and the Target Capabilities List (TCL) from September 15 to October 14.
- The adjusted timeline ensured that all partners had the opportunity to review both documents and allowed DHS to continue engagement with subject-matter experts on additional refinements.
- Although the Goal and TCL, prior to Hurricane Katrina, were developed in an all-hazards framework, the Hurricane emphasized the importance of all-hazards emergency operations planning.
- DHS made the following broad changes to the Goal and TCL as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina:
  - **Addition of a New National Priority.** *Strengthen Emergency Operations Planning and Citizen Protection Capabilities* was added as a capability-specific priority to the Goal.
    - President Bush emphasized emergency planning as a “National Security Priority” in a recent address to the Nation.
    - The addition of this new priority emphasizes the importance of the *Planning, Mass Care (Sheltering, Feeding, and Related Services)*, and *Citizen Protection: Evacuation and/or In-Place Protection* capabilities from the TCL.
  - **Emphasis on All-Hazards.** In response to Hurricane Katrina and several comments from partners during the national review process, the DHS removed references to September 11, 2001, which seemed dated, and added a new subsection in order to emphasize the all-hazards nature of the Goal.
  - **Capability Updates.** DHS revised and updated specific capabilities from the TCL in response to comments from stakeholders reflecting Hurricane Katrina lessons learned:
    - Environmental Health (rewritten)
    - Fatality Management (significant changes)
    - Citizen Protection: Evacuation and/or In-Place Protection (modified primarily in preparedness measures related to plans)
    - Public Safety and Security Response (added language related to violence and looting)
    - On-site Incident Management and Emergency Operations Center Management (modified to address preparing elected and other high-level government officials for their role in managing a major event)
    - Urban Search and Rescue (modified to include search of evacuated areas in addition to structural collapse extrication)
  - **Future Capability Revisions.** The following capabilities from the TCL will be reviewed and modified at a later date as more detailed lessons learned from Katrina are available and when TCL working groups, who have been deployed in the field, are available to review:
    - Mass Care (Red Cross is currently reviewing this capability)
    - Short Term Recovery
    - Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution
    - Volunteer Management and Donations
    - Citizen Preparedness and Participation
    - Water Rescue (to be addressed in current capabilities or added as a new capability)