# Improving National-level Guidance for Local Radiological and Nuclear Security Programs

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#### Overview

# BACKGROUND

- In the United States, as in most countries, local jurisdictions are often the first line of defense against radiological and nuclear (R/N) threats.
- Multiple examples of strong, detailed national-level guidance for R/N local programs do exist.







# **OBSERVATIONS**

- There are many topics local R/N programs struggle with, however, that are not addressed by national-level guidance.
- The way local programs manage some key topics varies, making it difficult to share best practices and continuously improve.
- At times, this variation appears to grow out of deliberate decision-making due to local conditions. In other cases, it occurs because national-level guidance does not address key topics of interest to local programs and so they develop solutions on their own, out of necessity.

# ARGUMENT

#### There are opportunities for national-level guidance to better support local R/N programs:

- Address some of these key topics now, before additional variations across local programs are institutionalized that make it even harder for them to share best practices and continuously improve; and
- 2. Understand the variations that already exist and provide tailored guidance on those topics so local programs can continue to advance their capabilities and maturity.



### Approach

#### **Select Subject**

- Opportunistic selection based on program's interest in other efforts
- 15 local programs engaged
  - ✓ All regions of U.S.
  - Urban and rural
  - Newer and more mature programs

#### **Facilitate Discussion**

- Expert observation identified variations during facilitated discussions
- Discussions were organized around a consistent set of R/N impacts and capabilities

#### **Document Outputs**

- Variations in the form of anecdotal information from local subject matter experts was recorded
- Information was organized around a framework developed by the U.S.
   Department of Homeland Security



## Examples of Variations Requiring Further Attention



Primary and Secondary Screening



**Escorts for Radiation Source Transport** 



Inclusion of Contaminated Waste in Debris Planning



Role of Volunteer Groups



## Next Steps: Framework for Further Research

Prevention	Protection	Mitigation	Response	Recovery
Planning				
	Puk	olic Information and	d Warning	
	(	Operational Coord	ination	
Intelligence and Information Sharing		Community Resilience; Long-term Vulnerability	Infrastructure Systems	
Interdiction and Disruption			Critical Transportation; Environmental Response/	Economic Recovery;
Screening, Search, and Detection				
Forensics and Attribution	Access Control & Identity Verification; Cybersecurity; Physical Protective Measures; Risk Management for Protection Programs & Activities; Supply Chain Integrity & Security	Reduction; Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment; Threats and Hazards Identification	Fatality Management Services; Fire Management and Suppression; Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Mass Care Services; Mass Search and Rescue Operations; On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement; Operational Communications; Public Health, Healthcare,	Health and Social Services; Housing; Natural and Cultural Resources
The 32 Core Capabilities, as established by the DHS National Preparedness Goal, 2nd edition, 2015			and Emergency Medical Services;	
			Situational Assessment	

### Next Steps: Taking Action

- Conduct this research in additional countries.
- ✓ Update national-level guidance to address these variations.
- ✓ Communicate with local programs to determine if updated nationallevel guidance better meets their needs.

