

National Level Exercise 2020



Overview and Background

FEMA leads a National Level Exercise (NLE) every two years to bring together and strengthen the whole community by testing operational capabilities, evaluating plans and policies, familiarizing personnel with roles and responsibilities, and fostering meaningful interaction and communication across the nation. Established by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, the NLE, as part of the National Exercise Program, allows stakeholders across the United States to leverage lessons learned to continuously improve, innovate, and build toward a higher level of national preparedness. We conduct a progressive series of preparedness events, culminating in a full-scale exercise, which bring together and strengthen the whole community. Scenarios for these exercises range from natural disasters to manmade attacks. They address specific types of threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the nation.

NLE 2020 will involve a complex, adversary-based multidimensional attack that reflects the global threat environment. This exercise will examine a complex threat that originates overseas. Widespread cyberattacks will lead to a domestic national security emergency with significant impacts on multiple critical infrastructure sectors. Partners across the whole community, including all levels of government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups will participate in NLE 2020. Lead-up preparedness events will commence in 2019 and the functional and full-scale components of the exercise series will occur from February through May 2020.

NLE 2020 Will Focus On:

 CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS	 STRATEGIC COORDINATION
 INFORMATION SHARING	 NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCY
 CYBER RESPONSE AND LIFELINE STABILIZATION	 CONTINUITY AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Participating Organizations

NLE 2020 is comprised of a series of component exercises representing the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Energy, the New Hampshire National Guard, and the states of Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. In addition, partners across the whole community, including all levels of government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and community groups will participate in NLE 2020.



Contact us at nle@fema.dhs.gov for more information on how you can get your organization involved in NLE 2020.



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