

# FEMA Streamlines its Support to Communities with New CBRN Preparedness and Response Role

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## *Key Programs Transferred from DHS, Expanding FEMA's Mission to Help States, Tribes and Territories Prepare for All Types of Emergencies*

FEMA is absorbing several established chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) readiness and detection programs from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office. These programs are designed to help communities prepare for and respond to potential CBRN threats by providing intelligence, equipment, training, exercises and other support.

The transition strengthens FEMA's all-hazards readiness and resilience mission in support of state, local, Tribal Nation and territorial partners nationwide.

The programs and capabilities transitioning to FEMA include:

- The **Threat Intelligence** team analyzes CBRN intelligence and provides strategic and operational guidance to enable federal, state, local, Tribal Nation and territorial law enforcement officials to plan for, detect and protect against threats.
- The **BioWatch** program provides 24/7 biodetection operations in more than 30 major metropolitan areas across the country. BioWatch also provides training and exercises to help state and local officials learn how to respond if a threat is detected.
- The **Securing the Cities** program provides equipment, technical and exercise support, training and planning guidance to 14 high-risk designated urban areas to enhance their ability to detect and prevent terrorist attacks using radiological or nuclear materials.
- The **Mobile Detection Deployment Program** deploys detection and monitoring capabilities across the country to ensure state and local law enforcement agencies have what they need to address chemical, radiological and nuclear threats. Deployments are typically requested to help secure special events such as concerts, marathons, parades, festivals and college and professional sports events.
- The **ChemPREP** program helps state, local, Tribal Nation and territorial partners prepare to respond to a chemical incident by providing tailored training and exercises, relevant to each local jurisdiction's unique chemical risks and vulnerabilities.
- The **Training and Exercises** team develops and supports exercises, including national-level exercises with interagency partners as well as state and local exercises. They also conduct robust training on CBRN detection and response for law enforcement officers.
- The **Test and Evaluation** team conducts independent assessments of detection technologies to verify and validate their technical and operational capabilities. This work ensures technologies are effective, reliable and mission ready.

Together, these efforts provide equipment, training, exercises, planning support and technical expertise that help communities strengthen CBRN resilience capabilities.

FEMA's priority is continuity for partners, personnel and ongoing operations. Existing coordination and operational support will continue as FEMA works to integrate these programs into the agency.

FEMA remains committed to ensuring state, local, Tribal Nation and territorial partners have access to the resources, expertise and support needed to help communities prepare for and respond to evolving threats.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at [FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov)
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov)
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov)
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## FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.