



United States
Department of Justice



FUSION CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Safeguard Iowa Partnership Regional Critical Infrastructure Workshop

Summit Purpose

From April 15-17, 2009, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership hosted a workshop for Federal, State, local, and military representatives from the Midwestern region to discuss Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) best practices and lessons learned for creating and sustaining critical infrastructure protection programs.

Safeguard Iowa Partnership: Overview

In 2007, the state of Iowa, the Iowa Business Council, and the nonprofit Business Executives for National Security teamed up and launched the Safeguard Iowa Partnership. The mission of the Partnership is to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from potential catastrophic occurrences in Iowa. The goals of the partnership are to:

- Build strong relationships and secure commitment between business and government leaders
- Expand and enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities by providing and facilitating education and training
- Inventory and promote available businesses resources for use by emergency management personnel
- Develop effective communication systems between public and private sectors
- Conduct exercises with public and private partners to validate operational capabilities

CIKR Defined

Physical or virtual assets, systems, and networks so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such assets, systems, or networks would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.

Workshop

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership members facilitated the discussion among the participants – CIKR experts from Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Oklahoma. The Partnership created a schedule that allowed for open discussion and debate regarding methodologies and technologies employed by various fusion centers and critical infrastructure protection programs across the country. The first day afforded the participants the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and reach out to their partners to develop solutions to individual State issues by providing the participants with the following six discussion questions:

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1. How has partnering with other public and private sector partners helped or challenged you in your state as it relates to CIKR protection programs, processes, and policy?
 2. How has your state maintained a strong commitment to implementing the National Infrastructure Protection Program (NIPP) in a declining economy without a major domestic incident?
 3. How has your state emphasized, stressed, legislated, and funded CIKR efforts in order to heighten their priority?
 4. How has your state planned, trained, exercised, and mapped CIKR inter-dependencies?
 5. How has your state implemented this knowledge integration association with fusion and information sharing to ensure real time information and protective measures recommendations are passed to our Security Partners?
 6. What methods, mechanism, and/or methodologies have you adopted to ensure that all (or as many as possible) appropriate partners are connected to your CIKR protection network?

The first day focused specifically on State and local efforts, while the second day concentrated on Federal government assessment methods and technologies to assist with CIKR protection. This included DHS's Constellation/Automated Critical Asset Management System, DHS' Food Agriculture Sector Criticality Assessment Tool, Protected Critical Infrastructure Information, *CIKR Protection Capabilities for Fusion Centers*, and developing public and private relationships. State and local participants openly discussed and debated these methods and technology.

The last day was an optional session where DHS piloted its NIPP/CIKR Awareness Course. The course provides eight hours of tailored training for personnel regarding CIKR protection and NIPP compliance specific to each individual State's needs. DHS utilized this opportunity to solicit feedback regarding desired modifications to the course from the upper level managers charged with CIKR protection for states and Fusion Centers prior to the rollout.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you require information regarding the Fusion Process Technical Assistance Program or assistance with the request process, please contact Kevin Saupp at kevin.saupp@dhs.gov or Patrick McCreary at james.p.mccreary@usdoj.gov.