



Highway Watch® Emergency Planning and Education Center



The Highway Watch® Emergency Planning and Education Center (HWW EPEC) is a cooperative effort between government and industry that assists the highway sector in preparing to respond to terrorist incidents and natural disasters such as hurricanes. The Center was established in November 2004 and is managed by Mississippi State University in partnership with Highway Watch®.

Initiatives

The HWW EPEC focuses on the following four initiatives.

- **Terrorist and Disaster Exercises**
A series of simulated events conducted by the HWW EPEC will assess the highway sector's knowledge of the National Response Plan and National Infrastructure Protection Plan. The exercises will evaluate executive, management, and operational decision-making; communications systems and contingency plans; and actions to cope with disruptions to highway transportation.
- **Mobilization Planning**
This initiative addresses gaps identified in the simulated exercises by assembling current mobilization plans and best practices in the transportation industry. Models and decision-making tools developed by HWW EPEC will help both private and public sector highway entities plan for mobilization and continuity of operations.
- **Technology Research, Development and Demonstration**
The HWW EPEC will explore technologies that could offer significant advantages in threat avoidance as well as disaster response and recovery.
- **Training programs** delivered by the HWW EPEC are keyed to different audiences within the transportation and related industries. HWW EPEC will develop curricula that instruct highway sector professionals about their roles and responsibilities in disaster situations and that assist them in planning and developing systems for maintaining critical highway operations.

Emergency Planning Working Group

Technical experts, management and operations personnel, and other participants with specific expertise and leadership will participate in the Emergency Planning Working Group. These transportation industry professionals will provide advice and participate in the HWW EPEC initiatives.

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