The State of Indiana Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)

Synopsis of a National Best Practice

Overview

In order to gain a better understanding of the threats we face, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), in partnership with the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC), developed a comprehensive, statewide analysis of potential natural, technological, and human-caused hazards. The purpose of the Indiana State Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) document is to identify the hazards and threats which have historically caused, or possess the potential to cause, incidents that can overwhelm emergency response capabilities within the State of Indiana. This analysis is data driven, focusing on actual incidents and experiences over the previous 50 years.

Thirty-five individual hazards and threats have been profiled in the State HIRA. Each hazard and threat was evaluated and scored based on a specific set of criteria. These scores have allowed each potential hazard and threat to be compared side-by-side with another. From this information, a clearer threat picture for the state has emerged, allowing for more effective prioritization and allocation of scarce financial, material, and human resources.

Key Findings

Each hazard was independently evaluated based on probability of occurrence; magnitude and severity; warning time; and duration. Each assessment criteria was assigned a weighted numerical value based on a modified version of the Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI). Individual risk classifications for each hazard were designated as either Low, Moderate, High, or Severe risks, as derived from their modified CPRI scores. Based on the analysis of available hazard data, a summary of key assessment findings included:

- ❒ *Natural hazards continue to pose the most significant, recurring threat to the citizens, critical infrastructure, and economic well-being of the State of Indiana.*
- ❒ *Every federal disaster declaration within the State of Indiana has been the result of weather-related incidents.*
- ❒ *Critical infrastructure within the state is aging, geographically concentrated, and vulnerable to a variety of threats.*
- ❒ *In addition to natural and technological hazards, the state must now be prepared to face the growing threat of domestic and international terrorism.*
- ❒ *Emerging threats, such as cyber attacks and homegrown extremists with ties to international terrorist organizations, are now a part of a rapidly evolving and increasingly complex threat environment.*

Conclusion

The intent of the State of Indiana HIRA is to provide an overview of the statewide threat environment and to identify, quantify, and analyze each hazard and threat. This document can be used to supplement local hazard identification and threat assessment activities. The HIRA also provides local, state, and federal officials with enhanced situational awareness; a resource to identify vulnerabilities; and a method to support the prioritization of preparedness activties and subsequent funding.