



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Government Facilities Sector

The Government Facilities Sector is one of 18 critical infrastructure sectors established under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7). Each sector is managed by a Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) that provides sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessment of national, cross-sector critical infrastructure protection and resilience programs. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), each SSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP), in collaboration with public and private sector partners, and for encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms.

Sector Overview

Citizens of the United States regularly interact with government at all levels and depend on the provision of various government services, all of which are supported by an array of facilities that are owned, leased, or operated by government entities. Ensuring the continuity of these functions and services through protection of their associated government assets is vital to homeland security.

The Government Facilities Sector includes a wide variety of buildings, located in the U.S. and overseas, that are owned or leased by Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments. Many government facilities are open to the public for business activities, commercial transactions, or recreational activities while others not open to the public contain highly sensitive information, materials, processes, and equipment. These facilities include general-use office buildings and special-use military installations, embassies, courthouses, national laboratories, and structures that may house critical equipment, systems, networks, and functions.

In addition to physical structures, the sector includes cyber elements that contribute to the protection of sector

assets (e.g., access control systems and closed-circuit television systems) as well as individuals who perform essential functions or possess tactical, operational, or strategic knowledge.

Sector Partnerships

The Federal Protective Service (FPS), part of DHS's National Protection and Programs Directorate, is the SSA for the Government Facilities Sector. Building on its traditional role as protector of facilities owned and leased by the General Services Administration, FPS coordinates efforts among government at all levels to identify, assess, and enhance the protection of government facilities determined to be nationally critical.

A Government Coordinating Council, chaired by FPS, is composed of representatives from government entities with primary coordination responsibility for the protection of government facilities. Because of its inherently governmental focus, sector partners are limited to representatives from Federal, State, local, or tribal governments involved in the protection of owned or leased facilities. However, FPS

works in close coordination with the Commercial Facilities Sector with regard to commercially leased facilities. FPS also represents the sector on the NIPP Federal Senior Leadership Council and through similar coordinating mechanisms established by other critical infrastructure sectors.

The Government Facilities Sector also includes the Education Facilities Subsector, which covers pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools, institutions of higher education, and business and trade schools. The subsector includes facilities that are owned by both government and private sector entities and, therefore, faces unique challenges. FPS works in close coordination with the Department of Education with regard to all schools.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Issues

The sheer size and scope of the Government Facilities Sector poses a challenge for infrastructure protection efforts. The Federal Government alone manages more than 3 billion square feet of space and over 650 million acres of land. The sector also covers the assets owned and operated by more than 87,000 municipal governments across the Nation, as well as U.S. embassies, consulates, and military installations abroad.

Government facilities represent attractive and strategically important targets for both domestic and international terrorist groups, as well as criminals. These assets are often targeted because they provide unique services, often perform sensitive functions, and have significant symbolic value. Because of the high-profile nature of the sector, government facilities operate within a very dynamic risk environment requiring a variety of well-coordinated protective measures to ensure the safety and security of citizens and the continued availability of essential government functions.

In an all-hazards environment, protective measures must also consider the natural hazards that may be likely, based on the geographic location of assets. Earthquakes in the Western United States, hurricanes in the South, tornadoes in the Midwest, and blizzards in the Northeast are all natural hazards that affect the risk to a government facility. Preparing for a pandemic influenza is equally important to ensure that government functions and services continue.

Priority Programs

Because of historical attacks on the Government Facilities Sector, many infrastructure protection programs have long been in place for many sector partners. In most cases, these

programs are robust and address risk in the most appropriate manner to the particular asset(s) they are designed to protect.

To build on these successes and provide for additional cooperation and commonality, the Government Facilities Sector examines assets on a functional level to identify best practices that can apply to similar assets owned or operated by Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial governments. This allows for more uniformity across all levels of government when planning, implementing, and executing protective programs.

Primary initiatives currently underway within the Government Facilities Sector include:

- Broadening interactions with sector partners to strengthen information sharing and coordination by leveraging security expertise, relationships, and resources within the sector;
- Facilitating the collection and protection of accurate information on sector assets;
- Assisting sector partners with efforts to organize and conduct infrastructure protection and continuity of operations planning; and
- Facilitating and conducting research and development activities that provide innovative solutions to common operational challenges and capitalize on new applications of existing technology.

For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp. For more information on the Government Facilities Sector, please contact NIPP-GFS@dhs.gov.



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