

Strategic National Risk Assessment 2015 Update Background & General Guidance

Background and Intent

In support of the continued implementation of Presidential Policy Directive 8: *National Preparedness*, the FEMA National Integration Center (NIC) is leading a review of the publicly disseminated findings¹ from the 2011 Strategic National Risk Assessment (SNRA) for accuracy and relevancy. In doing so, the NIC is seeking assistance from stakeholders in the review process. This document provides general guidance for you, as a stakeholder, for participation in this process.

The intent of reviewing and updating the 2011 SNRA is to provide an updated national-risk picture for senior level decision-makers and to support the update to the National Preparedness Goal, a parallel effort underway. The 2015 SNRA will include updates from the 2011 version and additional considerations for evolving threats and climate change. FEMA intends to use unclassified information to the maximum extent possible to help ensure our ability to disseminate the summary to a wider stakeholder audience.

Documents of Reference

The following documents are those we will reference in support of the SNRA review:

1. **The 2011 Unclassified SNRA** (7 page unclassified public version; December 2011) – this is the document being reviewed and updated in 2015 (<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/rma-strategic-national-risk-assessment-ppd8.pdf>).
2. **SNRA 2011 Unclassified PPD-8 Circulation draft** (FEMA provided) – this document is provided to stakeholders in the SNRA process directly from FEMA and for reference purposes only. It provides the unclassified basis (including risk summary sheets) for the SNRA summary document. This document is not to be distributed beyond those stakeholders involved in SNRA-related efforts.
3. **SNRA 2015 Risk summary sheet instructions and template** (FEMA provided) – provides detailed instructions for how to update a risk summary sheet with quantifiable information.
4. **SNRA 2015 Qualitative Data Instructions** (FEMA provided) – qualitative data submissions will primarily be used to support new content in the 2015 SNRA summary document, including evolving threats and climate change.

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2011, December). The Strategic National Risk Assessment in Support of PPD 8: A Comprehensive Risk-Based Approach toward a Secure and Resilient Nation (public summary) .

General Guidance for the SNRA 2015 Update Process

- Review the 2011 SNRA and the risk summary sheets contained within 2011 SNRA unclassified PPD-8 circulation draft.
- Submit feedback on the 2011 SNRA. If you determine that any of the findings in the document are inaccurate or are no longer relevant, please provide the data needed to defend any proposed corrections.²
- Submit updated risk summary sheets along with any supporting information for specific threats and hazards ONLY IF those updates would change the findings in the 2011 SNRA summary document or those updates are proposed as new threats and hazards. Please see the provided instructions for how to complete a risk summary sheet, and/or how to submit qualitative data for this effort. Please be sure to include all supporting data accordingly.
- If you have previously submitted this data to FEMA for another data call (e.g. National Preparedness Report), then **there is no need to submit it again**. However, please provide us with the POC and specific data call channel to which you submitted and we will coordinate directly through appropriate channels.
- The SNRA is not intended to include a definitive list of all risks, real or potential.
- FEMA is not seeking unsubstantiated opinions. All updated threats, hazards and findings which differ from the 2011 SNRA must be supported by quantitative data, qualitative data, or multiple subject matter expert statements supporting those opinions.
- The CLASSIFIED components to the SNRA are handled through a separate but coordinated process. Related questions can be sent to: PPD8-NationalPreparedness@fema.dhs.gov. Do not send classified content to this email address.

Questions to consider while reviewing the 2011 SNRA Summary Document

1. Do you have data to verify/back-up your position that the high-level findings from the 2011 SNRA summary should be updated?
 - a. If so, would the data **change** the December 2011 publicly disseminated findings **as they are written**?
 - b. If so, are you able to share your data? (A classified annex is available for classified information.)
 - c. If your data are quantitative, do they meet the same standards as the data in the 2011 SNRA?
 - d. If your data are qualitative, are they sourced and documented to the standards outlined in the Qualitative Data Instructions?
 - e. Does your data represent national-level risk, as opposed to sector-specific or regional risk?

² Requirements, instructions, and standards are provided in the technical instruction 'SNRA 2015 Risk Summary Sheet Instructions and Template', attached.

Submitting data to update the SNRA

If you have data that should update the findings and/or list of threats and hazards in the 2011 SNRA summary document, please send your data in a format suitable for integration into the SNRA development, as explained below and in supporting guidance (as referenced).

Submitting quantitative data

Reference the document titled, “SNRA 2015 Risk Summary Sheet Instructions and Template” for instructions on how to write an SNRA Risk Summary Sheet, and the minimal technical and documentary requirements for quantitative analysis in the SNRA. All new or updated **quantitative** data submitted by stakeholders in the 2015 review should align with the formatting guidance provided in the “SNRA 2015 Risk Summary Sheet Instructions and Template”.

Submitting qualitative data

See the document titled, “SNRA 2015 Qualitative Data Instructions”, which includes qualitative data requirements, instructions, and a template for accomplishing a concise literature review.

Risks identified and analyzed based on **qualitative** data may also be presented in the text of the summary document. All data, information, and sources provided and/or used for the review and update of the publicly disseminated SNRA summary are subject to public and/or peer review. The qualitative data requirements below explain what is needed in order for qualitative data submissions to be usable in the updated SNRA summary document. Specifically, the Qualitative Risk Package includes: a synopsis, literature review, and source materials (either physical or electronic copies).

Synopsis: Provide a synopsis of all your sources and the assessment based on your literature review in 150-words or less. Ensure that you cite sources of information using footnotes.

Literature Review: The Literature Review should follow the template provided. Source material should meet the following criteria:

- Should include 5 sources for each major topic area (i.e. fatality estimates from a tornado).
- Peer reviewed academic journals provide the best source for objective information.
- Government documents provide a good source for information.
- Trade journals provide an acceptable source of information, but the information is typically subjective.
- Source should be less than 5-years old. Sources over 5-years old could provide information that is no longer valid or relevant.

Source material: Submitted as either physical or electronic copies.

Department and Agency Action Items

1. Send your Department/Agency SNRA point of contact information (name[s], title, Branch/Unit/Division, Department/Agency, email address, and phone number) to the National Integration Center at: PPD8-NationalPreparedness@fema.dhs.gov by **Friday, February 13th, 2015**.
2. Submit all **UNCLASSIFIED** input, including completed risk summary sheet(s) and/or qualitative data to PPD8-NationalPreparedness@fema.dhs.gov no later than **March 5th, 2015**.