

Strategic National-level Risk Assessment (SNRA): Terms of Reference

I. Policy Mandate

The Presidential Policy Directive - 8 (PPD-8) Implementation Plan mandates, as part of the development of the National Preparedness Goal (NPG), that “The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a strategic, national-level risk assessment¹ to identify the relevant risk factors that guide where core capabilities are needed and develop a list of the capabilities and associated performance objectives for all threats and hazards that will measure progress toward their achievement.” This document describes how the PPD-8 Implementation Team intends to meet that requirement.

II. Decision Statement

The Strategic National-level Risk Assessment (SNRA) will support the identification of core capabilities necessary for National preparedness and decisions as to what level, and against what considerations, those capabilities are needed.

III. Scope

The SNRA will focus on those threats and hazards identified in PPD-8, considering the range of natural hazards (including (b)(5)), potential industrial accidents, and acts of terrorism, including (b)(5).² It will be designed to assess the risks of those events and incidents which create consequences that rise to a strategic, national level of impact.³

The assessment will focus on estimating risk⁴ over the next three to five years, in support of the overall need to take a future-oriented look at core capability development. In doing so, the assessment may also qualitatively identify future trends, drivers, and conditions that may impact homeland security preparedness needs beyond the five year period.

IV. Timeframe

The initial SNRA will be conducted over a four-week period. The results of the initial assessment will be used to help refine core capabilities for the publication of the NPG on September 25, 2011. The SNRA will be designed to support the follow-on execution of a more detailed national-level risk assessment to be conducted as part of the National Preparedness System (NPS) in FY 2012, and will also be designed to support integration with regional, State, and local risk assessments.

V. Execution Elements

The Secretary of Homeland Security has the lead for conducting the SNRA. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Protection and Programs Directorate will provide leadership on the execution of the assessment on the Secretary’s behalf, in coordination with DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) and DHS Office of Policy and other involved parties. The Director of National Intelligence will facilitate coordination across the intelligence community and, in coordination with the Attorney General, engage the law enforcement community to provide all relevant and appropriate terrorism-related intelligence information for the development of the risk assessment. The FBI will serve as the primary interface for purpose of conducting the risk assessment on behalf of the Attorney General. Other Departments and Agencies will provide information, analysis, and expertise to support the conduct of the SNRA as required. Additional members of the homeland security community (i.e appropriate State, local, tribal, territorial officials as well as private sector and non-governmental organizations) will be engaged during the conduct of the SNRA consistent with overall PPD-8

(b)(5)

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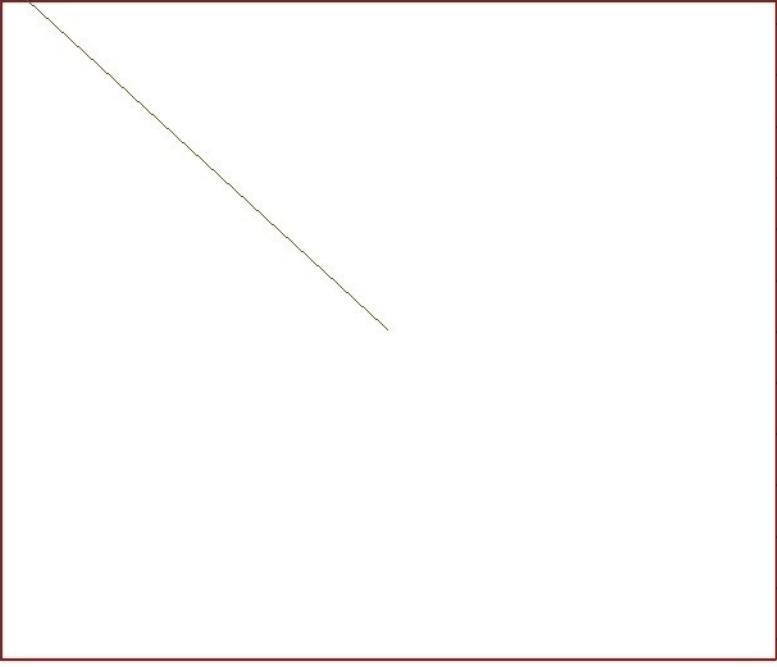
Technical Appendix
May 2015



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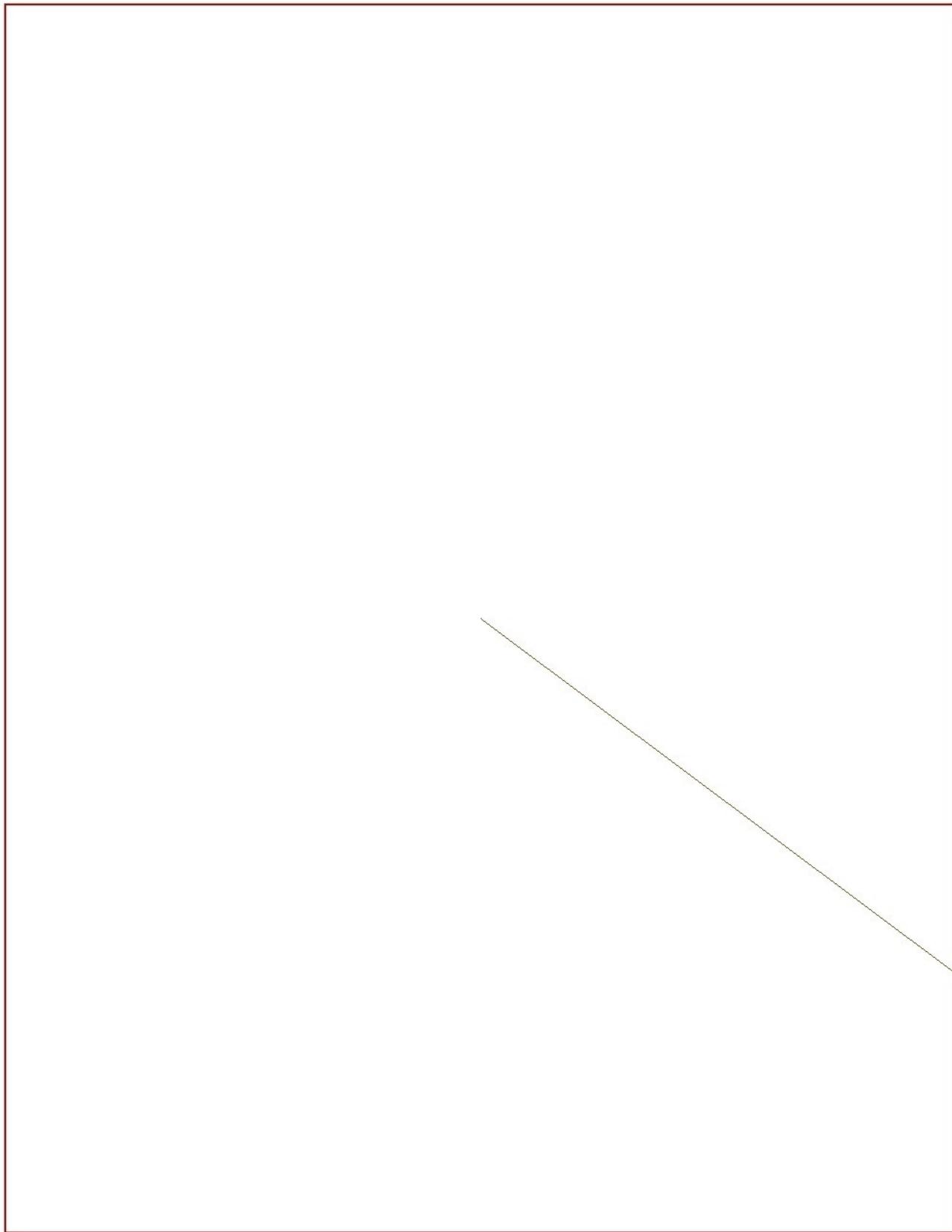
Section 4: Data Sources in the SNRA

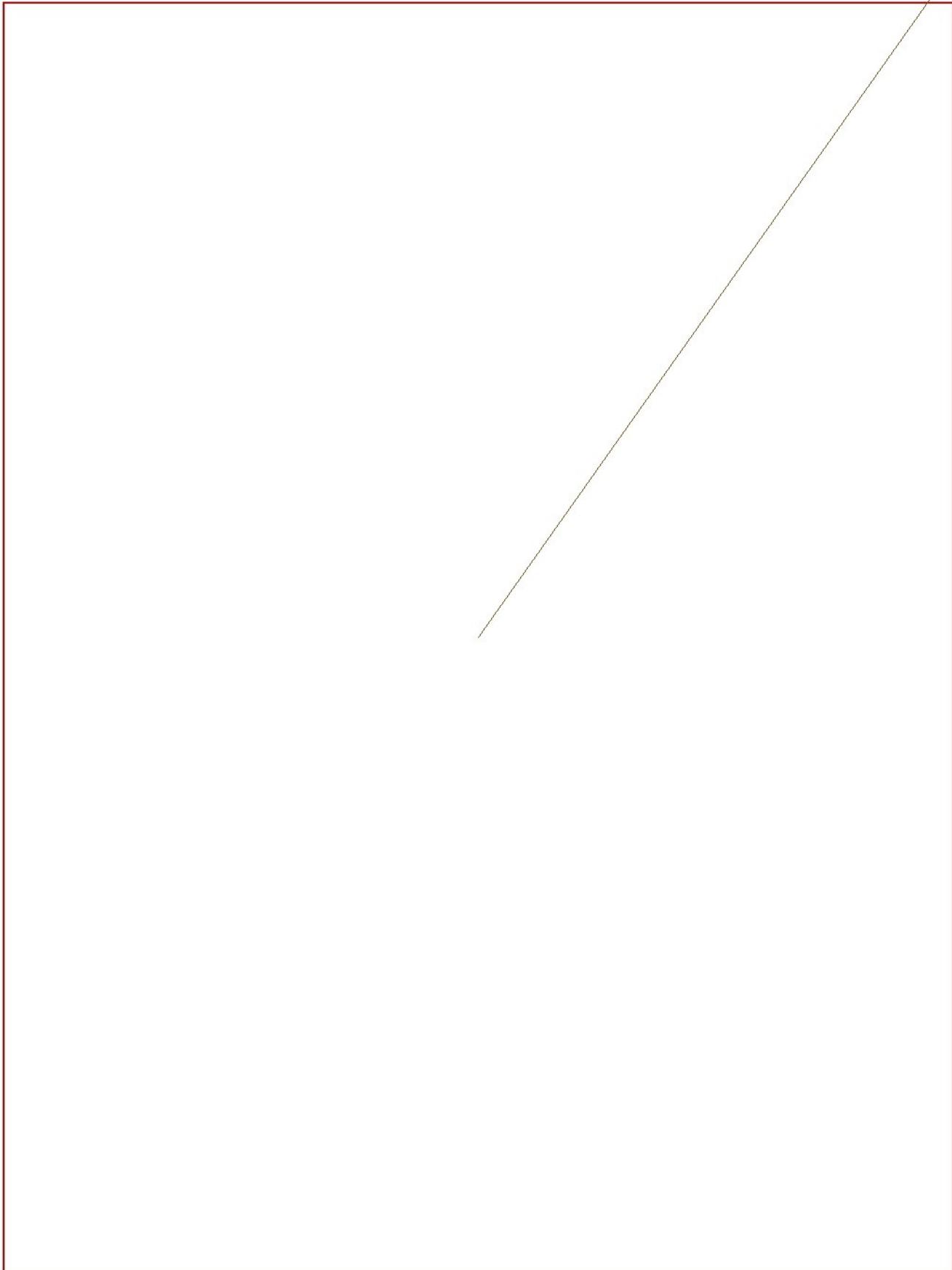
The SNRA project team used the data sources presented in Table 2 below during the development of the 2011 SNRA, and the update in 2015.

Table 2: SNRA Data Sources

Threat/Hazard	Frequency	Fatalities and Injuries/Illnesses	Direct Economic Loss	Social Displacement
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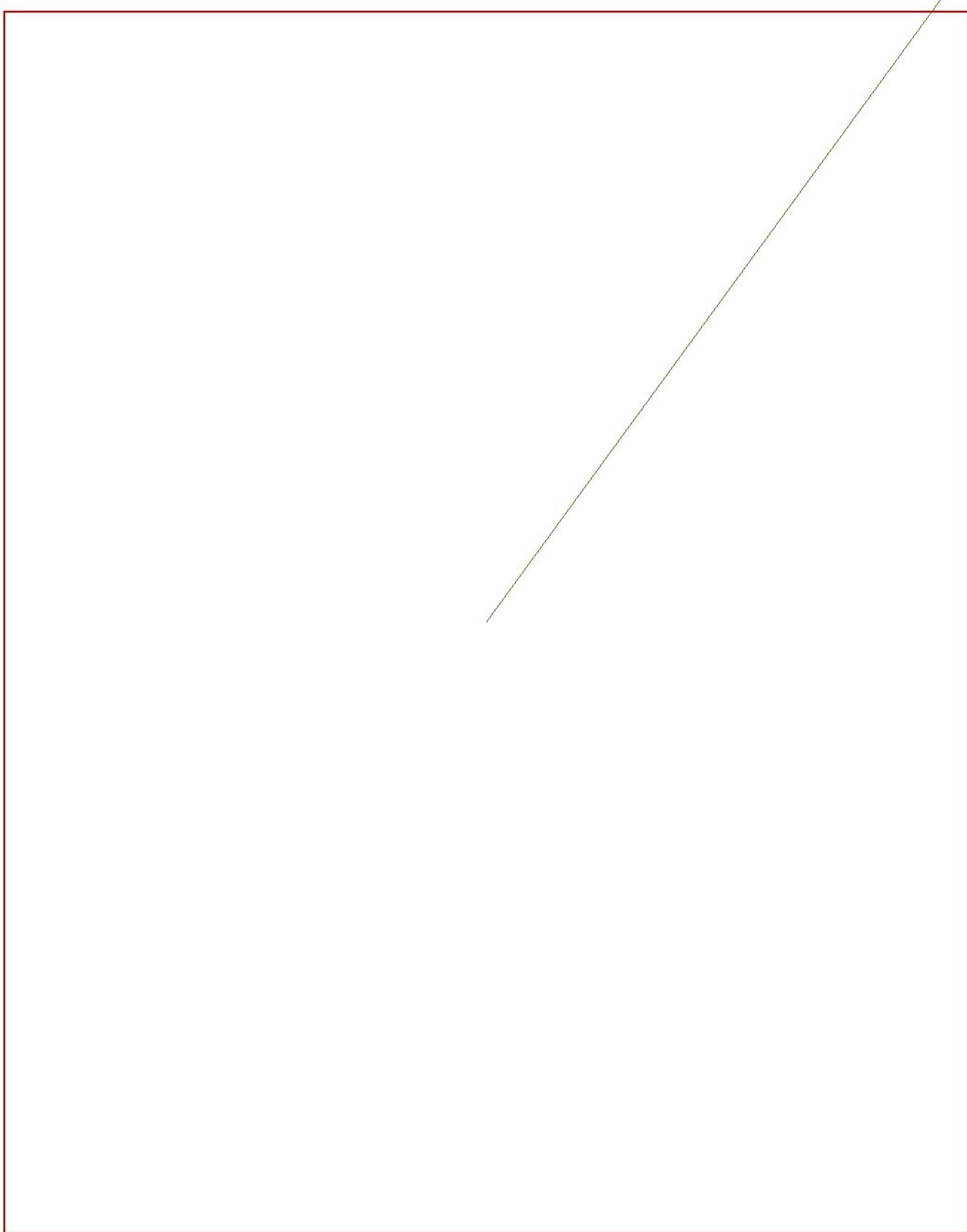
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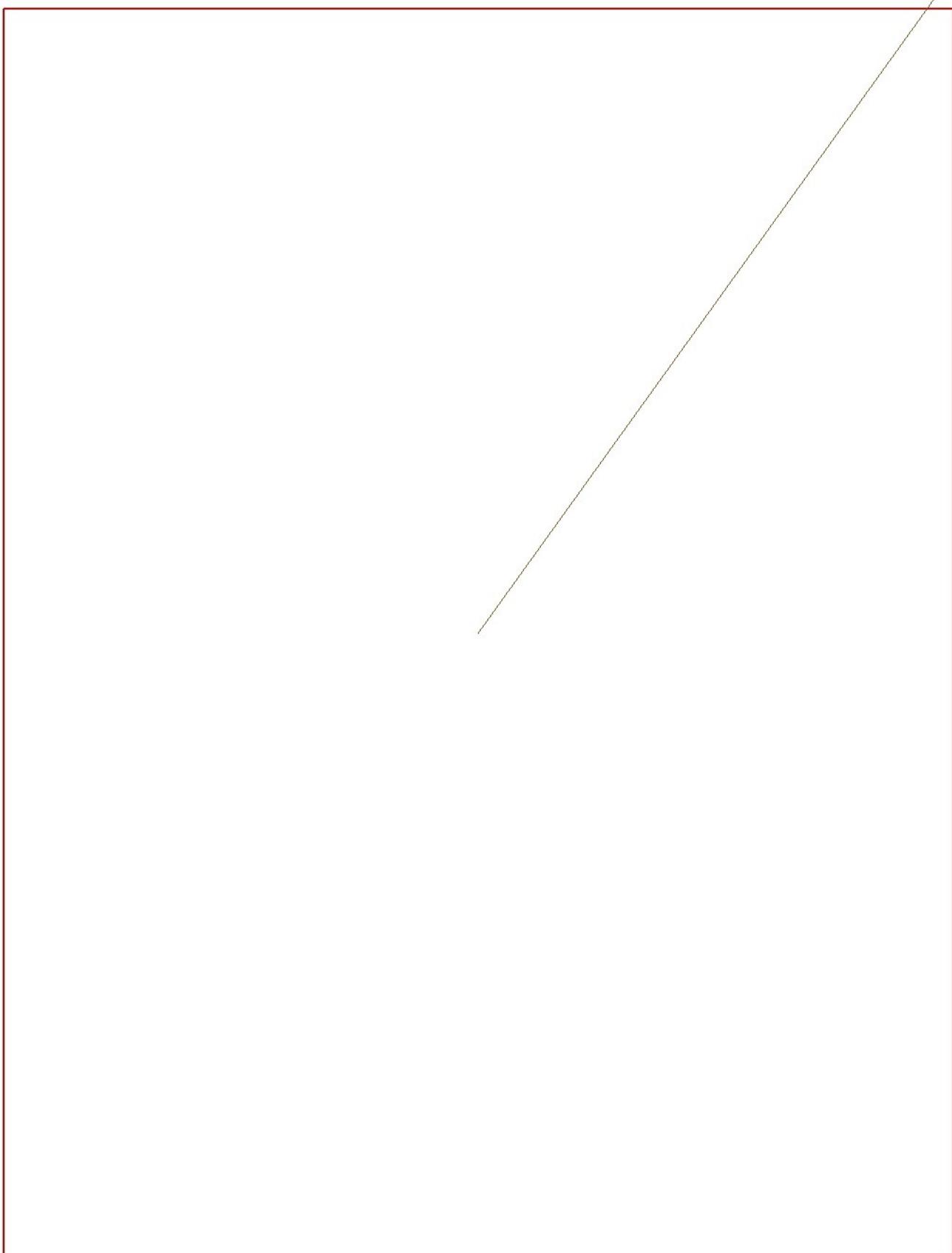


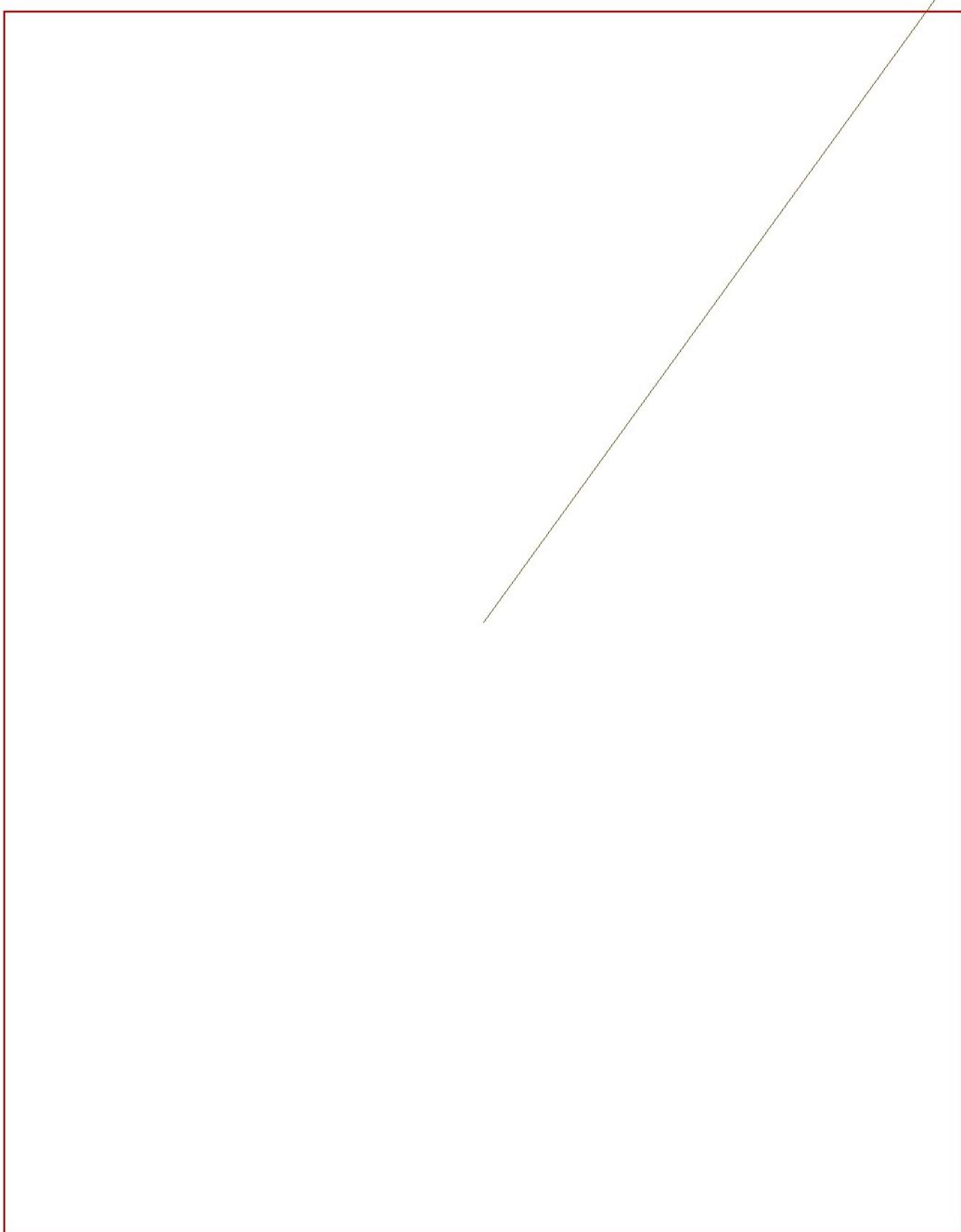


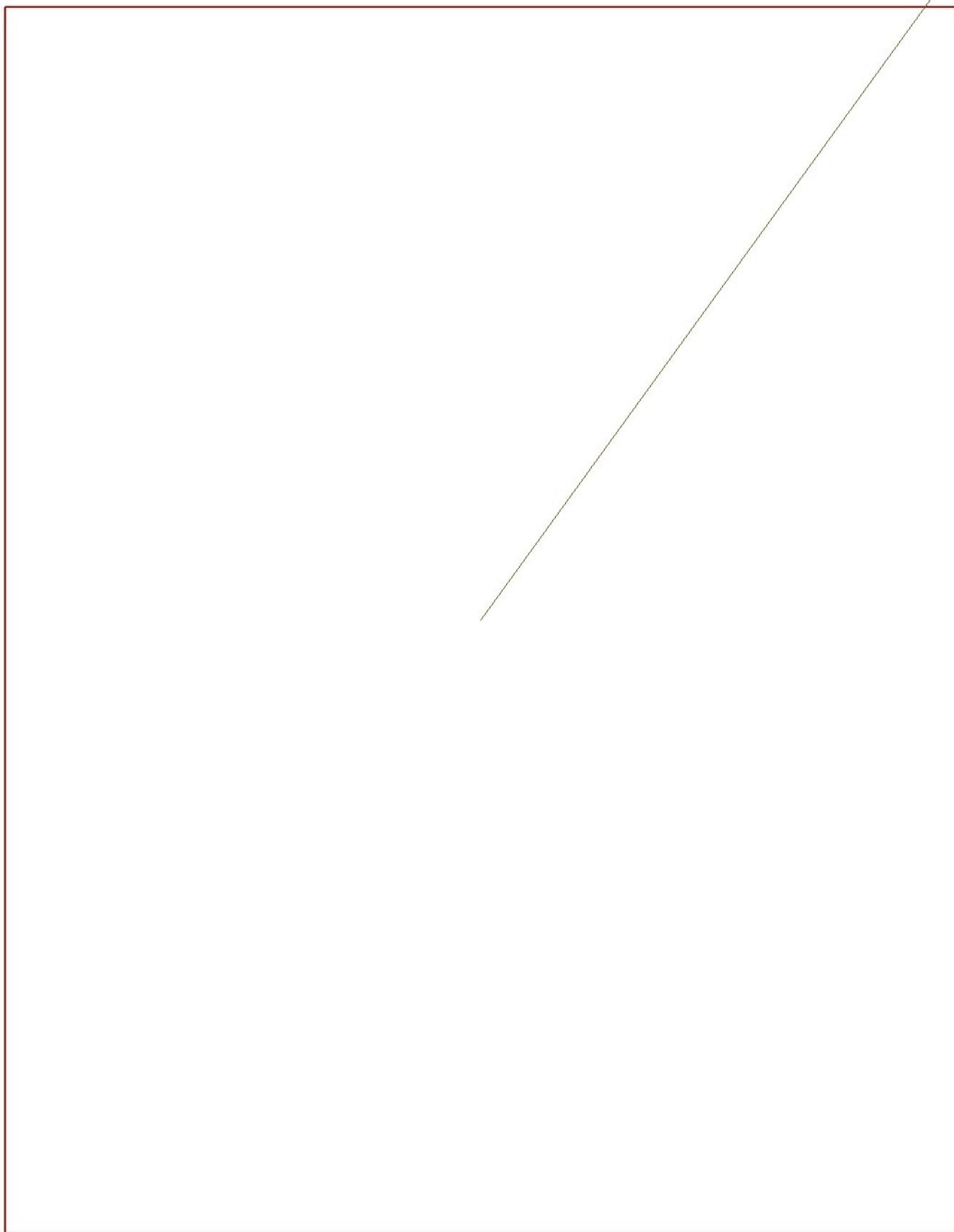
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Supplement:
SNRA 2011 Unclassified Documentation of Findings



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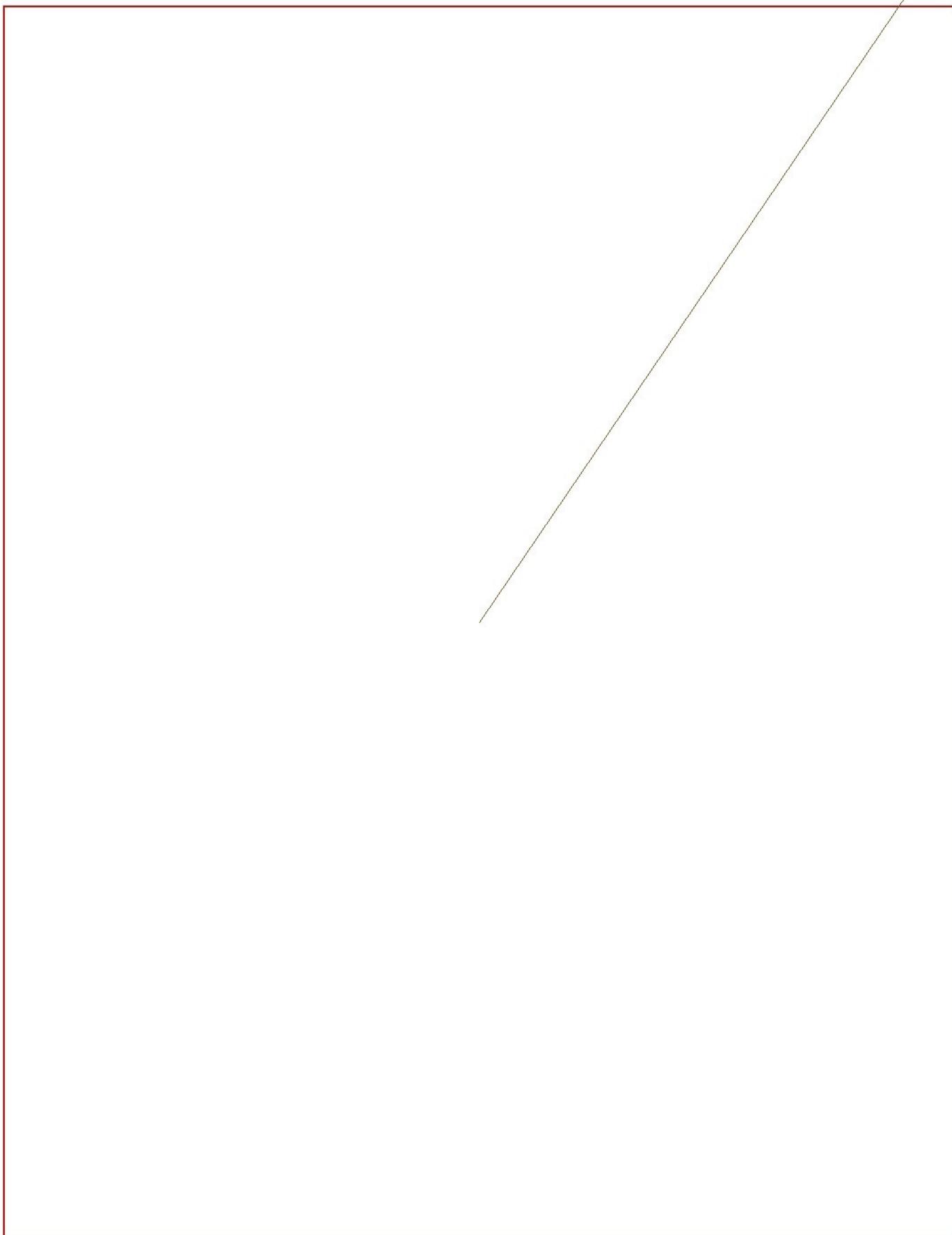
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WORKING DRAFT

Strategic National Risk Assessment 2015

SNRA Working Papers
May 2015



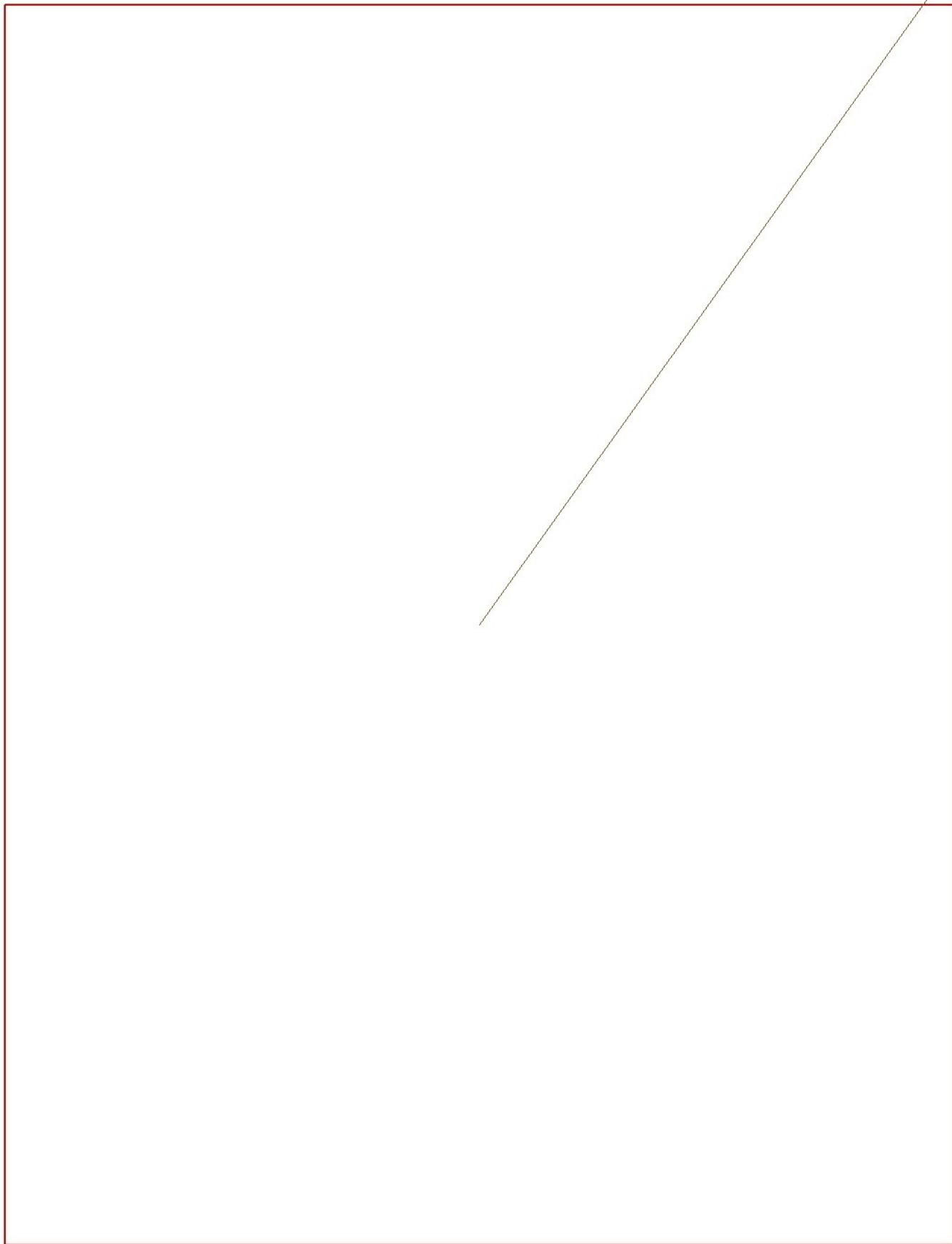
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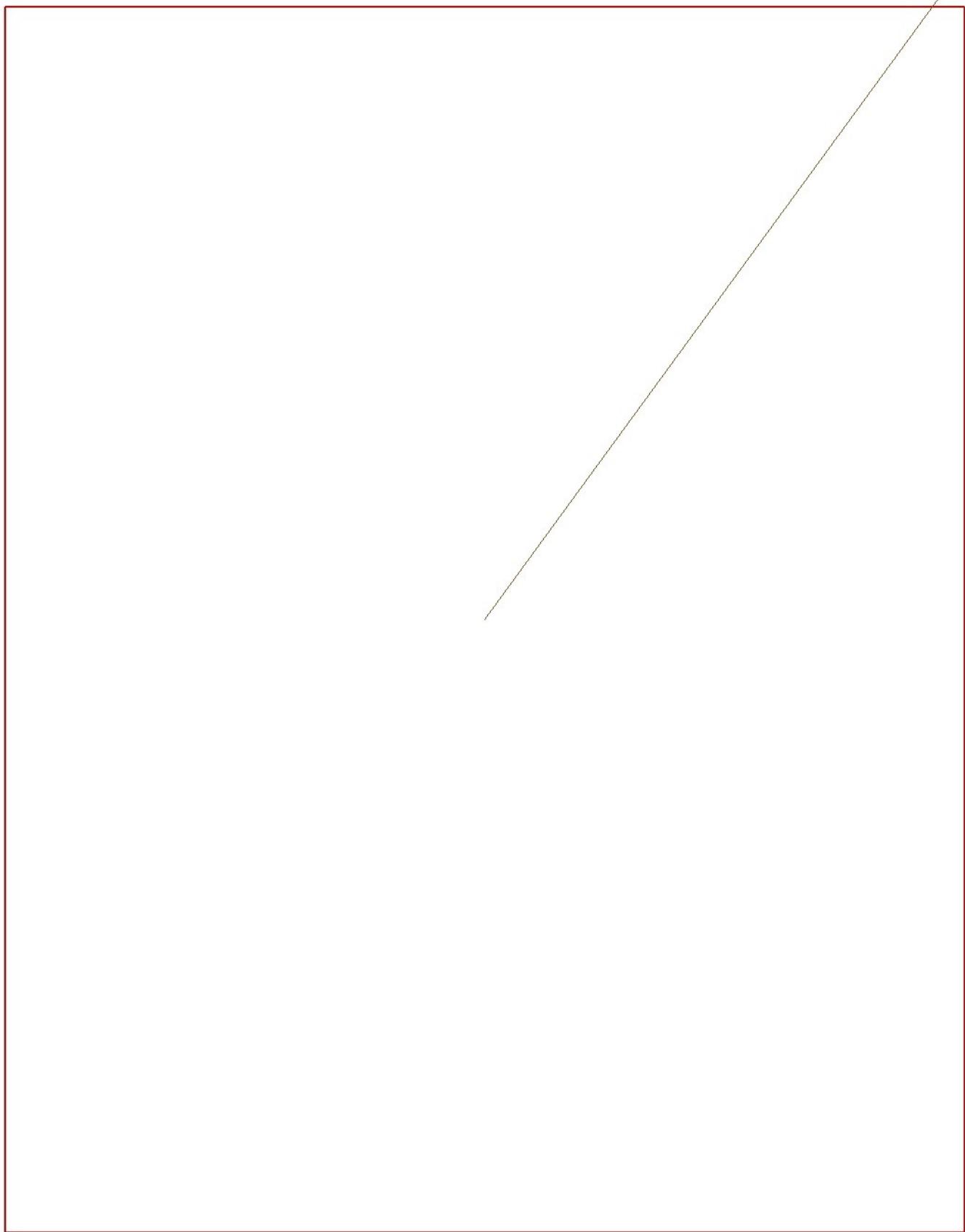
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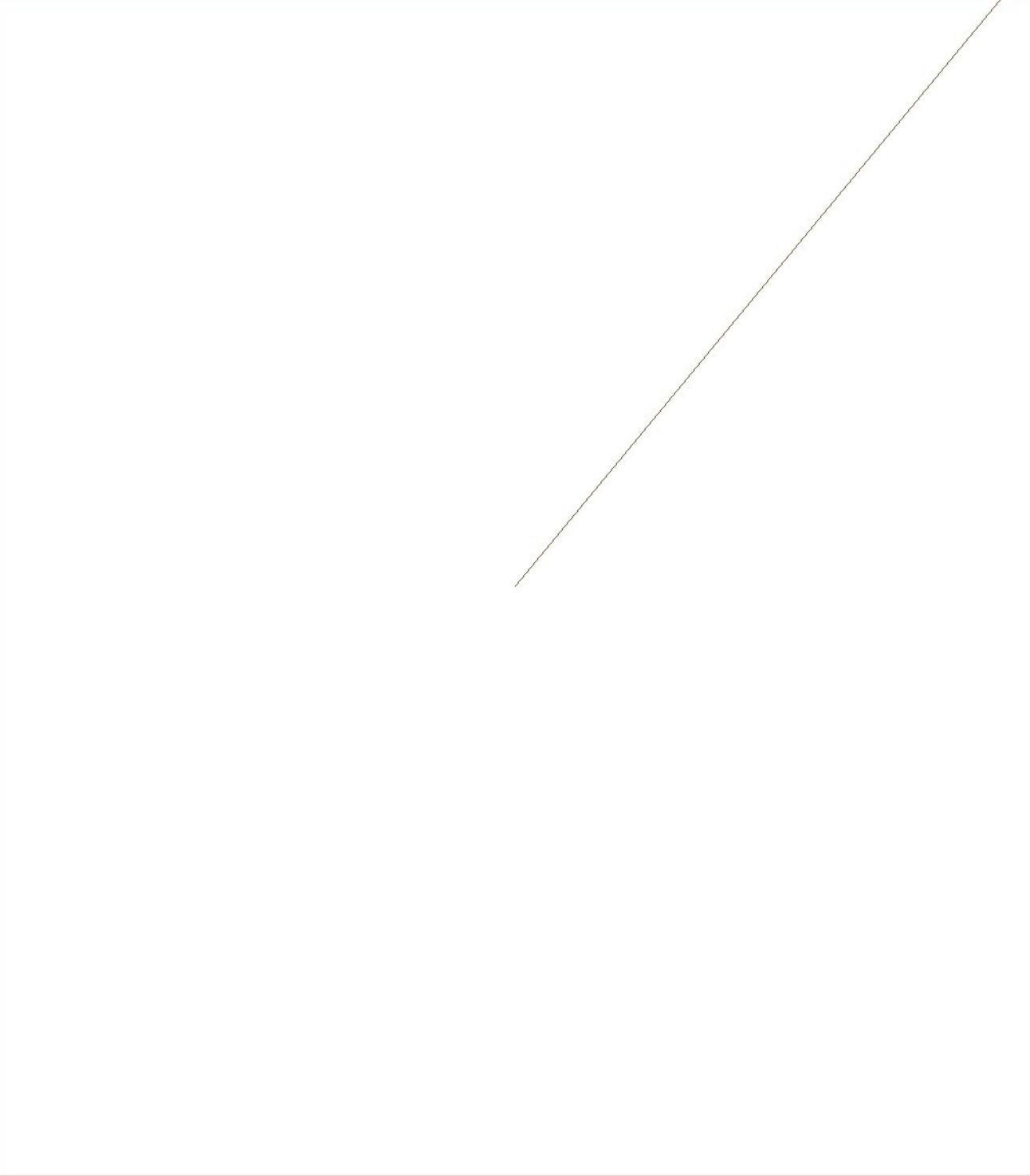
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(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)

2015 Strategic National Risk Assessment – Risk Binder



Strategic National Risk Assessment 2015

Findings
May 2015



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Overview

The SNRA is a process implemented by the Federal Government to identify the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the Nation⁹ and provide necessary context for those threats and hazards to support national preparedness planning. The SNRA informs and supports the National Preparedness Goal, the National Preparedness System, which is based on “*Identifying and Assessing Risk*”¹⁰, the National Preparedness Report (NPR)¹¹, and other efforts throughout the whole community to enhance security and resiliency. Whole community partners use risk assessments to inform efforts to build and sustain capabilities, including planning, training, and exercises.

The 2015 SNRA process reviewed the national risk environment and included the following:

The SNRA findings include:

The threat and hazard identification process of the SNRA highlighted a number of additional threats and hazards, including:

While the SNRA represents a significant step toward understanding the Nation's threats and hazards, it contains data limitations and assumptions that will require additional study, review, and revision.

Threat/Hazard Type	Threat/Hazard Description and Impact Threshold
Earthquake	An earthquake occurs within the U.S. resulting in direct economic losses greater than \$100 million
Flood	A flood occurs within the U.S. resulting in direct economic losses greater than \$100 million
(b)(5) Human Pandemic Outbreak***	(b)(5)
Hurricane	A tropical storm or hurricane impacts the U.S. resulting in direct economic losses of greater than \$100 million
(b)(5) Space Weather***	(b)(5)
(b)(5) Wildfire	(b)(5)
Wildfire	A wildfire occurs within the U.S. resulting in direct economic losses greater than \$100 million

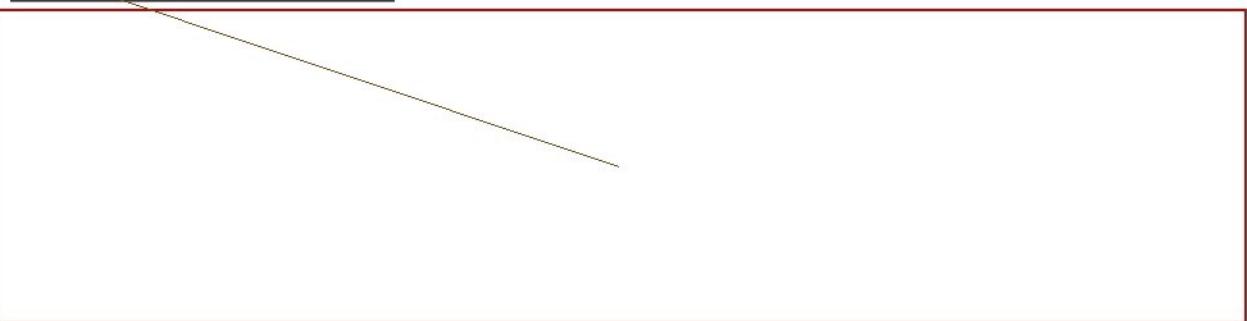
Technological / Accidental

Biological Food Contamination	Accidental conditions where introduction of a biological agent (e.g., <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , botulinum toxin) into the food supply results in 100 hospitalizations or greater and a multistate response
Chemical Substance Spill or Release	Accidental conditions where a release of a large volume of a chemical acutely toxic to human beings (a toxic inhalation hazard, or TIH) from a chemical plant, storage facility, or transportation mode results in either one or more off-site fatalities, or one or more fatalities (either on- or off-site) with off-site evacuations or sheltering-in-place
Dam Failure	Accidental conditions where dam failure and inundation in the U.S. result in one fatality or greater
Radiological Substance Release	Accidental conditions where reactor core damage in the U.S. causes release of radiation

(b)(5)

Drivers and Evolving Threats

(b)(5)



(b)(5)

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Threats and Hazards of Greatest Concern by Whole Community Partners

(b)(5)

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Final Notes

The SNRA process provides a broad analysis of the risks from the varied threats and hazards faced by the Nation. This assessment finds that a wide range of threats and hazards pose a significant threat to the Nation, affirming the need for an all-threats/hazards, capability-based approach to preparedness. The SNRA is designed to inform prioritization and tradeoff decisions by enabling the analysis of which capabilities are likely to have an impact at reducing identified high-risk events. Using the SNRA, the whole community can better understand which scenarios are more likely to impact them, what the consequences would be, and what risks merit special attention.

The SNRA process will continue to be implemented in support of the National Preparedness Goal, the National Preparedness System, and the all-hazards, capability-based planning approach to national risk management. Although the development and update of the SNRA are important steps, further analysis through the implementation of regional- and community-level risk assessments will help communities better understand their risks and form a foundation for their own security and resilience. The Nation's preparedness is dependent on whole community partners understanding the risks they face across all levels of government. In conjunction with local, regional/metropolitan state, tribal, territorial, insular area, and Federal partners, the SNRA process will be further implemented and refined in order to serve as a unifying national risk profile helping to facilitate preparedness efforts across the Nation.