



Introduction to Homeland Security

Course Summary:

In this course you will examine the elements involved in the homeland security function, as well as the challenges managers in government and industry can face while maintaining mission operations and staff accountability in the midst of multiple overlapping roles and responsibilities. The key functions of threat prevention, asset protection, crisis response, and operations recovery are addressed from a variety of perspectives. By the end of the course, you will be able to

- Compare national security policy before and after 9/11
- Describe the formation, purpose, and organization of the Department of Homeland Security
- Examine the types and effects of terrorism
- Analyze intelligence
- Describe the United States' approach to emergency management
- Describe the purpose, structure and function of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Examine the role of various fields in preparing for and responding to emergencies

Course Outline

1. What is Homeland Security? (L)

- Understand critical infrastructure and national security
- Describe the relationship between the Department of Homeland Security and the three branches of government
- Understand how national security has evolved as a result of the attacks on September 11, 2001
- Describe the events leading to the formation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Define the main goals of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

2. Organization and Strategy of Homeland Security (L)

- List the agencies brought under the umbrella of the DHS and the five directorates and their responsibilities
- Identify the six critical mission areas of the National Strategy for Homeland Security (NSHS)
- Describe the Patriot Act and its impact on national security policy
- Identify the relationship between homeland security and national security functions

3. Terrorism (L)

- Compare common definitions of terrorism
- Describe the historical perspective of terrorism
- Identify common components associated with terrorism
- List the types and tactics of terrorism
- Evaluate when and how terrorism works

4. Intelligence (L)

- Distinguish between intelligence and information, and be able to differentiate between strategic, operational, and tactical intelligence

- Contrast the uses of information by different government bodies and analyze the steps of the intelligence cycle
- Apply the steps in the analysis of competing hypotheses
- Explain how to analyze intelligence that will be used in intelligence briefs

5. **Critical Infrastructure (L)**

- Define the terms critical infrastructure and key resources
- Explain the relationship between the public and private sectors in the context of homeland security
- Describe destruction tactics of critical infrastructure and key resources from a U.S. historical perspective
- Describe the importance of proactive terror threat assessment
- Describe behavioral profiling and the rationale for post-incident investigations

6. **Cyber Terrorism (L)**

- Discuss the negative consequences of cyber terrorism
- Describe the difference between cyber crime and cyber terrorism
- Identify the tools used by cyber terrorists
- Examine measures to identify and remedy cyber vulnerabilities

7. **Transportation (L)**

- Identify the principle federal agencies involved in providing security for transportation systems
- Describe the principle hazards and vulnerabilities faced by the various modes of transportation
- Distinguish between critical-value modes of transportation and noncritical-value modes of transportation
- Describe the risks associated with mass transit, coastlines, and borders, and outline the initiatives being implemented to improve security for mass transit, maritime modes, and borders
- Identify local, national, and international interconnections among various modes of transportation

8. **Public Health (L)**

- Differentiate between epidemics and pandemics, and understand the role of vaccines
- Explain CBRNE incidents and responses
- Compare and contrast categories of biological agents and their use as weapons
- Explore the importance and role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Explain future plans by the CDC for public health preparedness

9. **National Response Framework (NRF) (L)**

- Contrast catastrophic events, emergencies, and disasters
- Analyze how catastrophic events are measured and differentiate between technological disasters and natural disasters
- Apply preparation strategies used for catastrophic events
- Explain the impact of terrorism on emergency preparedness
- Identify the organizations responsible for preparation and prevention of disasters

10. **Emergency Management (L)**

- Describe the history of the federal emergency management organizations
- Identify pre-impact conditions and various physical and social vulnerabilities
- Define the elements of a response protocol

11. **Incident Command System (ICS) (L)**

- Define Incident Command System (ICS)
- Describe the importance of comprehensive resource management. Describe the purpose of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)

12. All-Hazards Approach (L)

- Describe the "all hazards" approach to emergency management
- Identify the role of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) in disaster management
- Identify areas in which the NYPD's response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, indicated good prior planning or showed the need for more thorough planning for future events
- Describe the purpose and function of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

13. ICS Roles and Procedures (L)

- Apply the definition of an incident
- Explain the origins of the Incident Command System and its characteristics
- Explain Incident Action Plans
- Describe the difference between the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System
- Understand the organizational structure of NIMS and the NRF

14. Ethics (L)

- Describe the Philosophical Perspective on Ethics
- Discuss the practice of torture by proxy
- Identify the leadership selection process in the war on terror
- Explain norms in relation to ethical considerations
- Describe the issue of looting after a disaster

15. Emergency Communications (L)

- Describe how technology can be used for emergency planning, participation, and response
- Identify the common and alternative systems and technologies used in emergencies
- Discuss the lessons learned from past communication mistakes
- Identify barriers to communication systems

16. Careers and the Role of Education (L)

- Examine security protection and incident response for medical facilities
- Examine security protection and incident response for businesses
- Examine security protection and incident response for public utilities workers and emergency responders
- Examine security protection and incident response for social service providers
- Describe the role of education in homeland security

17. Introduction to Homeland Security Course Review (L)

- Review lesson objectives and key terms
- Review interactive presentations
- Use study guides
- Explore potential careers in the field of homeland security

18. Introduction to Homeland Security Final Portfolio (L)