



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) TCL Implementation Project –Target Capability Frameworks

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This document provides background information on the Target Capabilities List (TCL) Implementation Project, FEMA’s three year effort to revise TCL 2.0 and publish Capability Implementation Guidance for the suite of target capabilities. For additional information or to get involved in this effort, please contact the TCL Implementation Project Team at [TCL@dhs.gov](mailto:TCL@dhs.gov).

### ***What is the TCL Implementation Project?***

The TCL Implementation Project is the next step in the Nation’s effort to help States and local jurisdictions develop, assess, and strengthen prevention, protection, response, and recovery capabilities. The Project is a collaborative effort to build a “national yardstick” for preparedness by offering jurisdictions specific guidance on what jurisdictions need to work toward in preparing for a large-scale terrorist attack or natural disaster. As the frameworks are developed, FEMA will develop an assessment methodology and tool to empower States and jurisdictions to effectively measure current levels of preparedness against the guidance detailed in the capability frameworks. Ultimately, the Project will help all levels of government answer core preparedness questions: How prepared are we? How prepared do we need to be? What should we do to close the gaps?

### ***Why is this project being conducted?***

The Nation is developing a common approach to preparedness, as guided by *Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 “National Preparedness”* (HSPD-8) and the follow-on *National Preparedness Guidelines*, which include the TCL 2.0. But, TCL implementation is not complete. While the current TCL provides overarching activities and tasks needed to achieve national preparedness, it does not distinguish what a large city needs to accomplish from that of a rural town. The target capability frameworks will build upon the source content found in TCL 2.0 to define *who* must do *what* for each capability. Moreover, there is a need to reduce the administrative reporting burden on State and local jurisdictions. This Project addresses these issues.

### ***What does the project entail, and what is the timeframe involved?***

The current focus of the Project is to develop a series of Target Capability Frameworks to help States and local jurisdictions determine whether they need a given capability to be prepared, and if so, at what level. DHS/FEMA is working with stakeholders to complete Frameworks for six capabilities in 2008: Animal Health, Emergency Operations Center Management, Intelligence, On-Site Incident Command, Mass Transit Protection, and WMD/HazMat Rescue and Decontamination. Additional Frameworks will be developed in 2009 and 2010, culminating in TCL 3.0. The Project also includes development of an integrated capability assessment methodology and tool to facilitate the capability planning, assessment, and reporting process.

### ***What is a target capability framework?***

A capability framework is a user-friendly matrix of three charts that define:

1. Performance Classes: Who needs what capabilities (jurisdictions are grouped based upon shared risk factors);

2. **Performance Objectives:** How much of the capability is needed (objectives specifically identify what level of capability is required by each performance class);
3. **Resource Requirements:** What should be done to achieve the capability? (resources include plans, personnel, training, equipment, and exercises)

***What are performance classes?***

Different jurisdictions need varying levels of capability based on their risk and threat profiles. For example, urban areas may need to be prepared to decontaminate a larger number of victims than a rural community, whereas a rural jurisdiction may need to develop a greater capability for responding to a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. Performance classes will group jurisdictions in “classes” based on factors including population, population density, proximity to critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR), and other relevant factors. Performance classes, and consequently risk factors, will be different for each capability.

***What are performance objectives?***

Performance objectives are linked to each performance class and define *how much* of a capability is needed. Performance objectives define the critical “steps” that jurisdictions must accomplish for each capability in order to ensure success, though the *performance level* may vary for different performance classes. For example, all jurisdictions may need to decontaminate victims within thirty minutes (30) upon arrival to the scene, but a large city may need to be prepared to decontaminate *more* victims than a rural community. Capability-specific performance objectives will be written, where possible, to account for these differences in demand.

Performance objectives are not prescriptive insofar as there is only one way a jurisdiction can meet a defined outcome. Jurisdictions will determine for themselves the best approach for meeting performance objectives, whether they be accomplished through “in-house” resources, mutual aid, or strengthened regional collaboration.

***What are resource requirements?***

Resource requirements will indicate what jurisdictions must have *access to*, or demonstrate proficiency in, in order to meet each performance objective. Resource requirements include plans, personnel and teams, training, equipment, and exercises. Each performance objective will have measurable metrics for each resource requirement.

***Who is the audience for the capability frameworks?***

Each capability may have a slightly different audience depending on how the performance classes are defined. For example, the WMD/HazMat Rescue and Decontamination capability framework may be utilized by the chief of the fire department, whereas the Mass Transit Protection capability framework may be utilized by the local transit authority. Consistent with the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), capability frameworks will be utilized by whoever has the legal statutory authority for having that capability delivered before, during, or after an incident.

***How will States and local jurisdictions benefit from the target capability frameworks?***

States and jurisdictions will have a clearer picture of their preparedness for catastrophic events, a more objective assessment of their shortfalls, and a clearer understanding of what their priorities should be to

address the gaps. The target capability frameworks will empower jurisdictions to make sound policy decisions based on recognition of the planning, personnel, training, equipment, and exercise activities needed to achieve preparedness. The ultimate benefit will be enhanced capabilities at all levels of government to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from large-scale events.

***How are the capability implementation frameworks being developed and vetted?***

The capability implementation frameworks are practitioner driven. Technical working groups will meet to develop the six (6) capability frameworks from May to August 2008 in FEMA Regional locations. These groups will be composed of discipline-specific subject-matter experts, practitioners, national associations, and industry groups in order to ensure the broad collaboration necessary for a successful outcome. In addition, a broad national review will be conducted in August 2008 to ensure that the entire homeland security community can review the frameworks and provide input before the national release in October, 2008.

***How can I contribute to this Project?***

Your participation and input is greatly appreciated by FEMA. The technical working groups and national review are the most formal opportunities for collaboration and input. However, FEMA welcomes your comments throughout the Project. Please provide any information or comments to the TCL Implementation Project Team at [TCL@dhs.gov](mailto:TCL@dhs.gov).