

Updating the National Planning Scenarios: Phase I

A Brief History

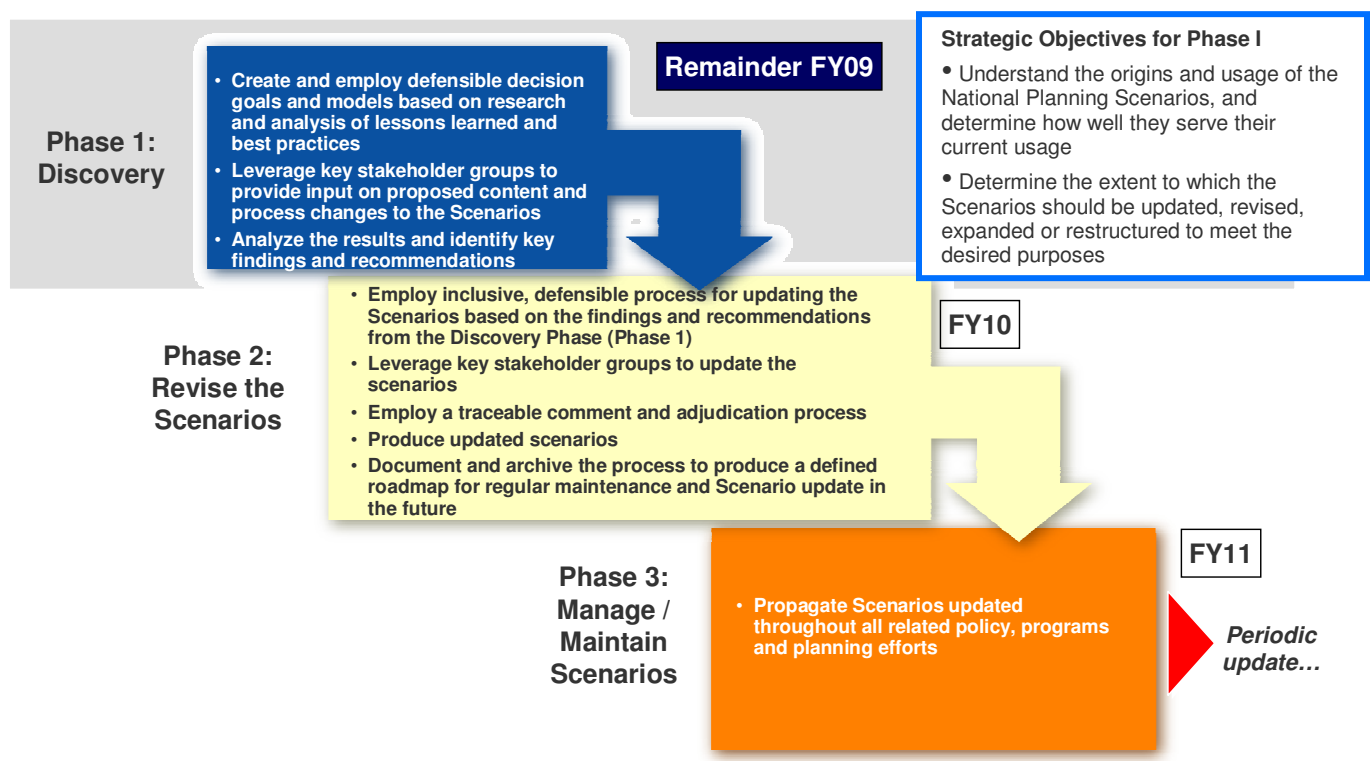
Beginning in 2003, the National Planning Scenarios (Scenarios) were developed by a federal interagency working group under the direction of the Homeland Security Council. Their singular purpose was to represent the gravest dangers facing the United States in order to identify the broad spectrum of tasks and capabilities needed for all-hazards preparedness. The tasks and capabilities identified from the Scenarios are defined in the Target Capabilities List to help synchronize the performance of planning, organization, equipment, training, exercise, evaluation and improvement activities consistent with the *National Preparedness Guidelines* and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)- 8 “National Preparedness”.

Since their release in 2004, the Scenarios have been used by many different stakeholders at the Federal, State, Local, Territorial and Tribal levels of government for expanded purposes. They have had a significant influence on the preparedness community and been used as a basis for capability assessment, planning, exercise design, risk analysis, budget analysis, and grant analysis.

Background for Reviewing the Scenarios

According to the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA), the Scenarios are “to reflect the relative risk requirements presented by all hazards...in order to provide the foundation for the flexible and adaptive development of target capabilities...to meet the national preparedness goal.” In addition, HSPD-8, Annex I “National Planning”, directs the Scenarios to be “developed, updated, or amended as necessary by the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of Federal agencies with a role in homeland security, and shall be informed by a risk-based analysis intended to focus planning efforts on the most likely or most dangerous threats to the homeland... on a **biennial** basis, or more frequently if necessary.”

As the Executive Agent for the revision process, FEMA developed a detailed three phase approach to support the maintenance and management of the National Planning Scenarios, as described in the figure below.

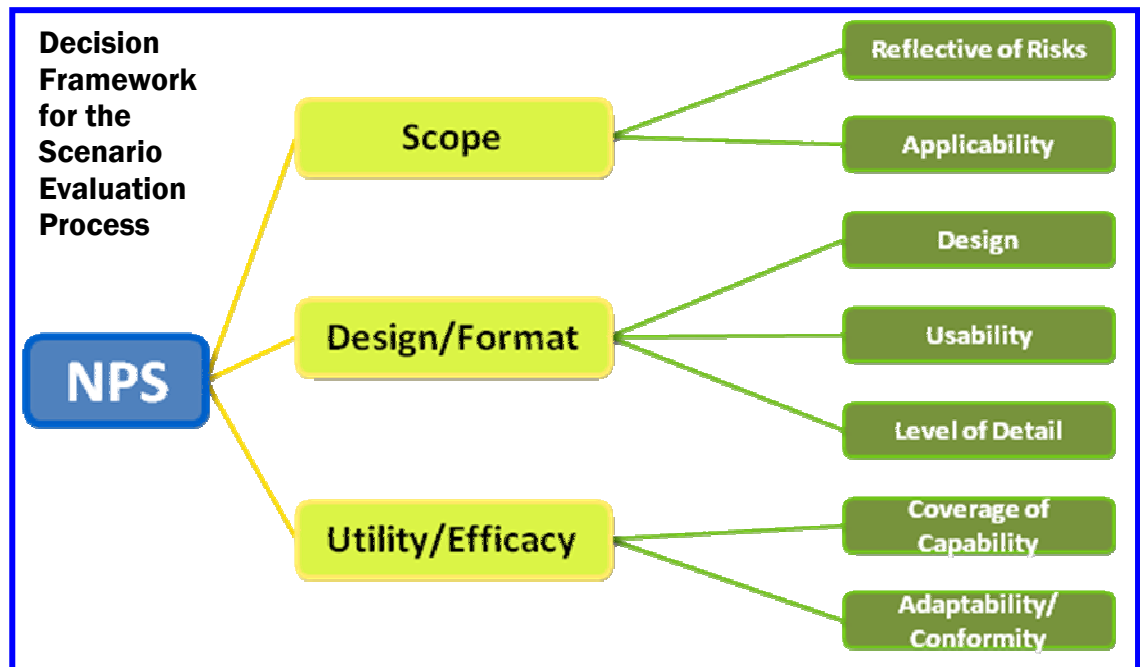


Bringing Stakeholders Together

Updating the Scenarios as required by PKEMRA and HSPD-8 Annex I, requires continuous engagement with the right mix of stakeholders that expect the Scenarios to realistically prepare all levels of government with a synchronized, flexible and effective methodology. FEMA will engage in sessions with a diverse set of representative stakeholders to evaluate how well the Scenario content and structure meet their current use and purpose. One of these stakeholder groups includes a core set of advisors primarily from within DHS to provide initial input/advice during Phase I. This core group of advisors will provide feedback on proposed methodology; recommend stakeholders for inclusion in the process; and assist in validating the initial purpose, scope and design of the Scenarios. Throughout Spring and Summer 2009, **FEMA will solicit stakeholder input on proposed content and process changes** for the National Planning Scenarios. FEMA will use multiple methods to collect this vital feedback and input in order to improve the process. One method to get a pulse on the Scenarios' content and structure will be through a **web-based Scenario Assessment** delivered to Stakeholders that will infuse the entire process with a baseline of data for inclusion in an

Analysis of Findings Report.

The **comprehensive and detailed methodology** FEMA will employ in evaluating the National Planning Scenarios, includes the use of a decision framework with criteria for which to evaluate the Scenarios based on stakeholder input. This will enable the development of a consensus-driven identification of recommendations for leadership decision



making on how the Scenarios may be updated or newly developed in FY 2010 (i.e. Phase II) with a repeatable process for continuous scenario maintenance.

Analysis of Findings Report

As part of the Phase I methodology, FEMA will produce an **Analysis and Finding Report** which will include the following:

- I. Background: origins, development and usage of current Scenario portfolio
- II. Description of how well the existing scenarios fulfill their current use and purposes
- III. Recommendations for updating scenario content and structure
- IV. Recommendations for revising or adding to the set of scenarios
- V. Recommendations on the NPS maintenance/management process

In Phase II, an interagency **Scenario Working Group** will coordinate any required revisions to the National Planning Scenarios. The **Scenario Stakeholder Community** will provide input into the revisions process, and provide feedback concerning any revised or newly created Scenarios.

For More Information

For more information on the NPS review effort, contact Joshua Dozor at: Joshua.Dozor@dhs.gov.