

Recommendation to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

In response to the January 23, 2004 letter from the 9-11 Commission Chairman Kean and Vice Chairman Hamilton, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) convened safety, security and business continuity experts from a wide range of industries and associations, as well as from federal, state and local government stakeholders, to consider the need for standards for private sector emergency preparedness and business continuity. These parties, brought together under the auspices of ANSI's Homeland Security Standards Panel (ANSI-HSSP), have concluded that a high-level, voluntary standard applicable to all businesses regardless of industry, size, or location, is needed to establish a common framework for emergency preparedness. On behalf of these experts and stakeholders:

ANSI proposes that the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States include in its recommendations to Congress and the President of the United States, the position that the high-level, voluntary American National Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs (NFPA 1600) be accepted as the common framework for private-sector national preparedness (hereinafter known as the *National Preparedness Standard*). This document was developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) using due process and consensus-based procedures approved by ANSI.

The *National Preparedness Standard* establishes a common set of criteria and terminology for private-sector disaster management, emergency management, and business continuity programs for a variety of hazards. Recognizing that any truly viable standard is open to continuous improvement, the parties also developed several recommendations for further enhancements to the standard. These comments have already been submitted to the NFPA disaster management technical committee.

A national implementation strategy is necessary to support the use of this standard. ANSI recommends that the Commission request the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal agencies as appropriate, to undertake this initiative. In addition, ANSI will continue to collaborate with the Working Group on Private Sector Preparedness (PSP-WG) to develop incentives for private-sector implementation of this voluntary standard and to market, promote and educate the public about its existence. The Institute also stands ready to take additional steps that may be deemed appropriate in furtherance of this initiative.

Experts from the following organizations participated in the process:

3M
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS)
American Electric Power (AEP)
American Management Services
ASIS International
Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development (ACORD)
Attainium Corporation
Bank of New York
Battelle
Bechtel Nevada
Booz Allen Hamilton
Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
Chiron Corporation
The Conference Board
Congressman Christopher Shays' (R-CT) Office
Deere & Company
DMJM Technology
DRI International (DRII)
EAI Corporation
Emergency Corps
Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Goldman Sachs
Greater New York Safety Council
Homeland Security Industries Association (HSIA)
IBM
Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Lucent Technologies
Marsh USA Inc.
Micro-News Network
Microsoft Corporation
Midwest Research Institute (MRI)
National Biometric Security Project (NBSP)
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
New York City Police Department (NYPD), Counter Terrorism Bureau
New York City Transit (NYCT)
North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC)
Raytheon Company
SBC Communications
Skyscraper Safety Campaign
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO)
U.S. Postal Service (USPS)
Willis
Working Group on Private Sector Preparedness (PSP-WG)