



County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)



NYSEMA Conference
February 12, 2014

Draft - For Official Use Only



Bottom Line Up Front

- A **Governor's initiative** to obtain a greater understanding of local preparedness levels and better position the State to support local disaster preparedness and response efforts.
- It is **not intended** as a scorecard or ranking system.
- DHSES has worked to **streamline** the approach based on stakeholder feedback. The goal is to develop a flexible, intuitive and user friendly approach that will work for every County.
- CEPA is an **iterative/ongoing process**. All Counties and NYC must participate to continue receiving grants administered by DHSES.



What is CEPA?

- CEPA is a **framework and tool** to help State and local stakeholders assess risk, capabilities, and the potential need for support and resources during emergencies or disasters.
- CEPA provides for a **standardized and repeatable** process to understand capabilities at the County level and identify statewide trends.
- The key component of CEPA is an in-person meeting between **State and local subject matter experts** to discuss and analyze local hazard and capability information and potential resource gaps.

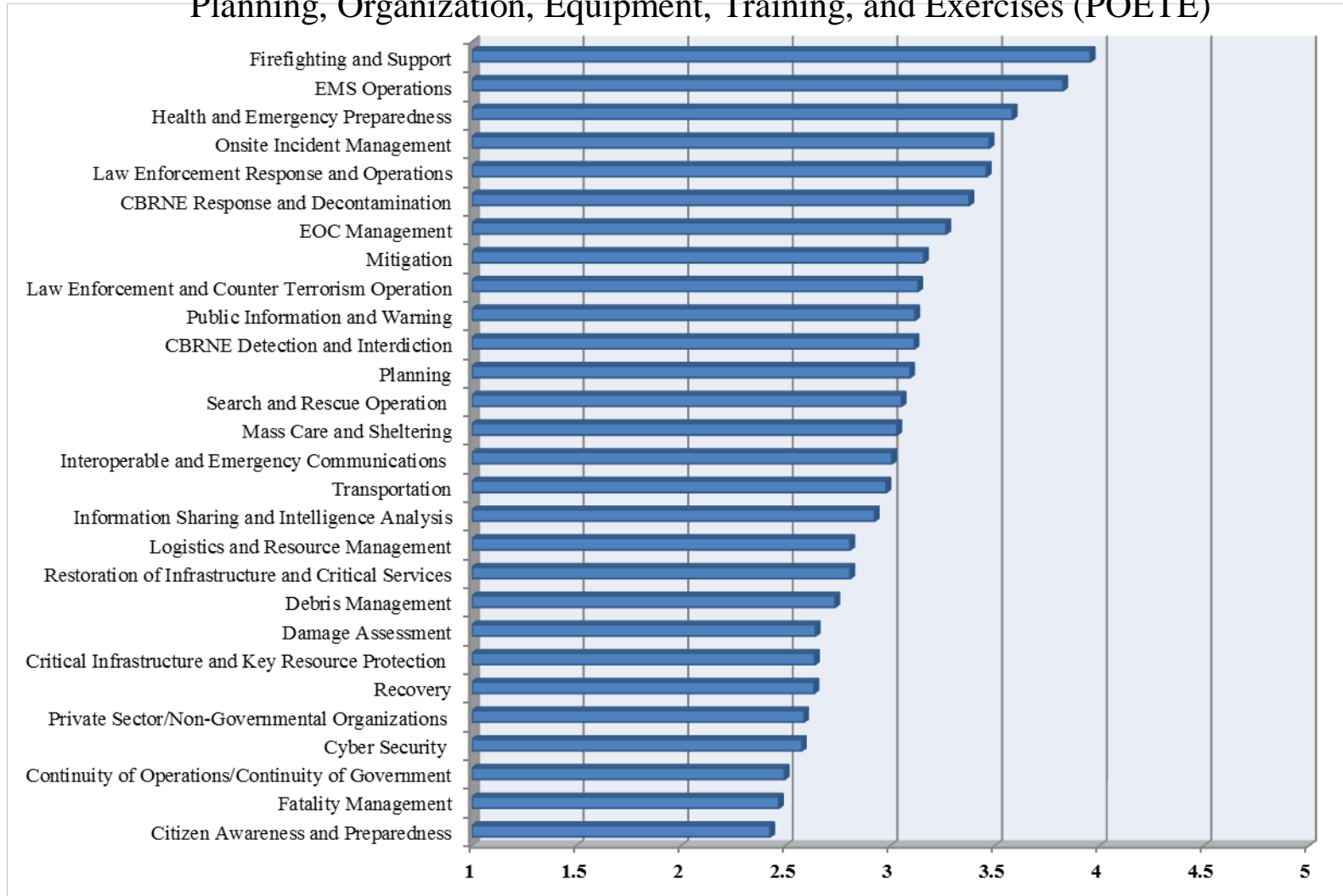


What is CEPA?

- Leverages existing data sources and **builds on previous capability assessments**, including a capability survey completed by every County and NYC in 2012.
- CEPA will seek to validate that assessment and capture additional data from the Counties/NYC.
- The CEPA tool will be **flexible** enough to accommodate additional capabilities or hazards of interest to the County/NYC, and it is likely that some hazards and capabilities will be considered “not applicable” for some Counties.

2012 Capability Survey

On a scale of 1-5, assess your county's ability to meet each of these capabilities based on five (5) key factors: Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercises (POETE)





Why are we doing this now?

- To better understand risk and capability levels in light of recent disasters (e.g., Sandy, Irene, etc.) and other emergencies, and the ongoing threat of catastrophic events.
- To **help make more informed decisions** on how to use increasingly limited resources to prepare for and respond to the threats and hazards facing New York.
- To **comply with federal mandates** regarding the need to have a capability assessment system in NYS.
- To ensure every NYS resident is positioned for the best possible response when disasters strike.



The CEPA Process

Step 1: Schedule CEPA Session



Step 2: Session Preparation



Step 3: The CEPA Session



**Step 4: Share Draft for Review
and Comment**



**Step 5: Final Draft and Analysis
of Trends**



The CEPA Team

- Will include a **facilitator** responsible for facilitating the session, State and County **SMEs**, and at least one **scribe** responsible for capturing notes and other data.
- SMEs must have knowledge of: **Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Public Health and Public Works/Transportation.**
- From a State agency perspective, it will likely include regional representatives from the following agencies: **DHSES/OEM, DHSES/OFPC, State Police, DOH and DOT.**
- It will be up to the County EM to identify the proper County agencies/SMEs to participate, to include City reps if the County includes a major metropolitan area. **All disciplines outlined above must be included.**



The CEPA Tool

CEPA Tool used to:

1. Validate (or capture) some key information about the County (population, square miles, etc.).
2. Conduct a hazard assessment using a standardized methodology (likelihood x consequence) and identify the worst case/most catastrophic scenario of concern to the County.
3. Conduct a capability assessment using a standardized methodology to examine: Planning, Organization (People), Equipment, Training and Exercise (POETE) components of each capability, and identify any capability gaps.
4. Determine capacity limitations for each response capability (i.e., how long the County can deliver the capability without mutual aid).
5. Identify an inventory of some key response resources within the County and any anticipated resource needs for the hazards of greatest concern.



How the information can be used

- To **better understand County capabilities and potential statewide capability gaps** in an effort to better plan for and respond to the needs of the Counties.
- To produce an overall State assessment and County Profiles for each County.
 - The County Profile should include **both qualitative and quantitative information** to ensure the proper context as it relates to the assessment.
 - It may also include any identified **strengths, potential best practices** and possible strategies to enhance preparedness levels.



How the information can be used

- Counties can use the results in a variety of ways:
 - To help educate their elected officials
 - To support grant applications
 - To help justify budget requests
 - To tailor future programs and resource allocations
 - To inform future planning, training, and exercise activities.
- Counties can also use the CEPA results to provide a framework for more detailed discussions with DHSES (and other State Agencies) regarding exactly what resources and support the State can offer to best support local government during emergencies.



Information Protection

- The State will make every effort to **protect** the data/information, and the State will not share County specific data/information with any other party (including other Counties) **unless specific consent** is provided.
- **Summary/trend** information may be used to help support federal risk and capability assessment requirements, including the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA).
- For information security purposes, and because CEPA is an iterative/ongoing process, **all reports and documents will remain draft and they will be marked and protected accordingly.**



Impact on Grant Funding

- Participation in CEPA will be **a requirement** to continue receiving homeland security grant funding administered by the DHSES.
- CEPA is **not intended** as a mechanism to award grant funding, although the information obtained from CEPA **should help to inform** the use of grant funds and other resources to sustain critical capabilities or address capability gaps.
- DHSES plans to review CEPA trends/findings on a statewide basis to **help inform potential new targeted grant programs** to address CEPA gaps.



Keys to a successful CEPA

- Full participation by the key State and local stakeholders/subject matter experts.
- Clarity and transparency regarding the process and how the data/information will be used.
- Adequate planning and preparation for the CEPA session.
- Open and honest dialogue between all parties involved.
- Strong facilitation to keep the process moving.



How has the process been streamlined?

- Use of additional “drop down” menus/ more user friendly.
- Significantly streamlined hazard assessment process; now using a worst case scenario approach.
- Use of a standard capability assessment scale and criteria.
- Use of fewer questions to gather more information.
- Use of existing data sources and a consistent approach to validate previous capability assessments.



Next Steps

- Continue pilot testing (5 counties).
- Brief CEPA at NYSEMA Conference (2/12).
- Complete pilots, make any necessary updates to the tool or approach.
- Begin Statewide roll out (after proper training and notice).



Final Thoughts

- CEPA is more strategic than tactical.
- There are no “right” answers. Not envisioned that every County will have every element of every capability.
- Important to identify strengths as well as opportunities for improvement.
- This is a Pilot – we need your feedback!