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Preparing for a Space Weather Event

Response and Recovery Following Space Weather Events

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Background

- Traditionally the Emergency Management community did not focus on preparing for and responding to impacts from Space Weather events.
- Executive Order 13744 of October 13, 2016 established the policy of the United States to prepare for space weather events to minimize the extent of economic loss and human hardship.
- The Executive Order required the creation of the *Federal Operating Concept for Impending Space Weather Events* is designed to coordinate federal assets and activities to respond to notification of, and protect against impending space weather events.



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Federal Operating Concept for Space Weather

- The Federal Operating Concept outlines the necessary actions departments and agencies should take to prepare for, and respond to, a notification of an *impending* space weather event.
- The document provides guidance to departments and agencies (D/As), to be used in the development of their operational plans to prepare for, protect against, and mitigate the effects of impending space weather events.
- The document focuses on the operational and crisis planning functions, reporting structure, and reporting requirements of D/As in response to notification of a forecasted event.



Federal Operating Concept – continued

Key Activities and Considerations

- **Risk Analysis:** Requires each department/agencies to evaluate vulnerabilities to infrastructure and operations.
- **Alerts and Notifications:** Identifies official agencies responsible to disseminate notifications of elevated space weather threat or space weather incident.
- **Protective Actions:** Requires each department/agency to develop and disseminate messaging, advise, protection and notification to its programs, personnel, customers, sector representatives, and stakeholders.



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Federal Operating Concept – continued

Key Activities and Considerations

- **Operational Adaptations:** Encourages departments/agencies to consider employment of backup systems and crisis action planning to ascertain and execute infrastructure restoration.
- **Operational Coordination for Response:** Specifies that FEMA will initiate incident management coordination among federal, state, territory, and non-governmental organizations.



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Impacts from Space Weather Events

Developed and released the *Power Outage Incident Annex (POIA) to the Response and Recovery Federal Interagency Operational Plans : Managing the Cascading Impacts from a Long-Term Power Outage*

- The POIA provides guidance for federal level responders to provide response and recovery support to local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area efforts while ensuring the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.
- The POIA is not an electricity restoration plan rather it outlines the types of federal support available to Critical Infrastructure stakeholders in restoration activities and the responsibilities of industry stakeholders.
- The POIA also identifies potential critical information requirements and unique considerations that could hinder their ability to provide mission-essential services.



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Ongoing Work: National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan

Objective III: Establish Plans and Procedures for Responding to and Recovering from Space Weather Events

- Develop, review, and update Federal response plans, programs, and procedures to address the effects of space weather.
- Develop and disseminate products and information on the effects of space weather that support coordinated response and recovery efforts.
- Facilitate information sharing to inform and enhance the operation and restoration of critical infrastructure at greatest risk to the effects of space weather.



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Thank You



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