

About the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness

In March 2006, Governor Jon S. Corzine issued Executive Order #5 creating the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) as a cabinet-level agency for the State of New Jersey.

Mission

The executive order defined OHSP's mission as being responsible "to administer, coordinate, lead, and supervise New Jersey's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts." The executive order also set the office's goal as coordination of "emergency response efforts across all levels of government, law enforcement, emergency management, nonprofit organizations, other jurisdictions, and the private sector, to protect the people of New Jersey."

Advisor to Governor

OHSP's director is the Governor's principal advisor on homeland security and preparedness issues.

Agency Functions

OHSP has absorbed the functions of the former state Office of Counter-Terrorism, which include investigations, as well as information and intelligence gathering and analysis, and intelligence and information-sharing functions.

The office also now oversees the New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, the state's multi-agency cabinet-level policy body for homeland security, counter-terrorism and preparedness issues. The director of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness serves as the Task Force's chair.

Interagency Coordination

The Office has a mission to coordinate its activities among state departments and agencies, and between:

- State and county government and agencies
- State and local governments and agencies
- State and various federal departments and agencies
- The state and the private sector

Coordination with State OEM

The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness works closely with the State Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), housed in the Division of State Police.

While the office has responsibility for overseeing statewide emergency response coordination, NJOEM continues as the state's primary operational agency in terms of managing the consequences of emergencies and the post-event responses to emergencies.

OHSP Organization

The Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness has two major divisions:

The Operations Division —

- Conducts counterterrorism investigations in conjunction with the FBI, New Jersey State Police and local and county law enforcement
- Provides state-specific intelligence and analysis relevant to threats and risks faced by New Jersey from potential terrorists, man-made and natural incidents

The Preparedness Division —

- Coordinates statewide protection of critical infrastructure
- Coordinates statewide counterterrorism and preparedness training
- Coordinates statewide exercising
- Coordinates continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COG) planning
- Administers federal and state homeland security grants for New Jersey

OHSP's Principles

- **Inclusiveness** - means that all relevant agencies, local law enforcement and first responders must have a seat at the table.
- **Regionalization** - refers to efforts to coordinate concerns that overlap between and among municipalities and counties and between New Jersey and neighboring states.
- **Transparency** - means the office's actions must be totally open and understood by all citizens.

Primary Functions of OHSP

INVESTIGATIONS — Conducting investigations related to potential terrorist activities, jointly with NJ State Police, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces, as well as with county and municipal law enforcement entities.

INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING — Collecting intelligence affecting New Jersey, as well as analyzing it and ensuring that it is shared with relevant public agencies and private sector groups.

GRANTS — Overseeing and distributing discretionary state and federal homeland security preparedness funds solely on basis of risk.

EXERCISING — Conducting regular exercises to assess and prepare responses for terrorist and "all hazards" incidents.

TRAINING — Coordinating statewide training of law enforcement officers, first responders and personnel from other government agencies and the private sector involved with homeland security and emergency preparedness responsibilities.

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR LEGISLATION — Reviewing all state legislation regarding counter-terrorism and preparedness issues.

PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE — Working with private industry to protect its facilities against potential terrorism as well as all types of "all hazards" incidents.

PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES — Working with the New Jersey Office of Public Advocate to help ensure that citizens' rights and civil liberties are protected when it comes to homeland security and preparedness issues.

Report Suspicious Activity to the Terrorism Tips Hotline

1-866-4-SAFE-NJ
(1-866-472-3365)

In case of emergency

Call 9-1-1

**For homeland security updates
and information**

Call 2-1-1



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