



Business Executives  
for National Security



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## The Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership

The Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership is a public-private enterprise created by the Denver InfraGard Members Alliance (IMA), the Denver Police Foundation, Business Executives for National Security and the Philanthropy Roundtable. It is a broad coalition to implement a voluntary, all-hazards partnership between business and government and, to date, has been the product of many Colorado partners including leaders of the philanthropic community, federal, state and local agencies, business, academia, and US Northern Command. It is a new organization aimed at bringing the private sector to the table in a streamlined fashion for emergency preparedness and homeland security planning and to help smooth lines of communication between and across the public, private and non-profit sectors. The mission of the partnership is to strengthen the region's collective capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters through effective public-private collaboration.

Businesses and governments alike understand the value of planning for continuity of operations. Too often, however, that planning is done in isolation – within a company, by industry sector, or by government alone. The very best business continuity planning is for naught if the community around that business cannot function. Likewise, government faces an impossible task in effectively providing all phases disaster management – given the private sector controls 85-90 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure. In recognition of this inter-dependency across organizations and between public and private sectors, the Colorado partnership's work will reflect the importance of joint planning, practice, and ongoing collaboration to ensure continuity of community.

The flagship project of this new partnership will be a robust, secure, resource-sharing tool: a voluntary registry of business resources (warehouses, office space, trucks, equipment, skilled personnel, etc.) that can be accessed during disasters by state and local emergency management. The secure web-based registry will be implemented under the leadership of the Denver IMA with support from FEMA.

### Objectives of the partnership include:

- **Mobilizing a team of businesses** representative of the regional economy that shares a commitment to strengthen the resiliency of the metro Denver community and the state.
- **Integrating private sector and government resources** to build new capabilities for disaster response and mitigation, using a multi-hazard approach.
- **Validating new operational capabilities** through regular joint exercises with public and private partners.
- **Establishing strong, trusting relationships** with and between stakeholders and improving communication between public, private and non-profit sectors – before, during, and after a disaster.

While early focus will be on serving the metro Denver area in anticipation of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, both the resource-sharing tool and the broader regional partnership will have statewide application thereafter.

This partnership will organize the resources and expertise of the business community to improve security and response capability in Denver and throughout the state. By working together, public, private and non-profit leaders will strengthen Colorado's ability to mitigate the impact of catastrophic events and will help ensure the safety of Colorado citizens and the resiliency of its economy.

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