



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive Public Works Resource

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Summary

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 29,500 members who design, build, operate, maintain and protect our country's critical infrastructure and facilities including: transportation, utilities, communications, and water control. As first responders, APWA members are dedicated to improving the Nation's emergency management programs in the event of natural disasters or terrorist attacks. APWA supports the coordination and collaboration of federal, state and local efforts in the wake of such catastrophic events.

In accordance to APWA's long range goals and key strategic and advocacy initiatives, the National Homeland Security Consortium's White Paper is a valuable tool that reinforces APWA's duty to protect Americans in the 21st Century.

APWA and the NHSC White Paper: Working Together Toward a Common Goal

APWA has applied the White Paper's core principles in the following ways:

- **Emergency Relief Efforts** – The White Paper aims to “provide predictable and sustained federal technical and financial assets that are imperative to . . . protect[ing] the homeland.”

APWA encourages initiatives at the federal level that support an efficient and effective all-hazards approach to disaster management and mitigation, more rapid disbursement of funding and quicker response in pre- and post-disaster events. As a first responder, APWA supports the National Incident Management System and the National Response Framework; and advocates for initiatives that seek to improve these programs.

- **Public Works as an Integral Responder** – The White Paper intends to “include all stakeholders as equal partners in all aspects creating national critical infrastructure protection policy and guidance.”

As first responders, APWA calls for public works to be fully integrated in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary emergency response and recovery procedures.

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- **Security of Public Facilities and Utility Systems** – The White Paper proposes an examination of “the full range of missions where current direct federal assistance might be more effectively delivered . . .”

APWA supports the implementation and funding of reasonable security measures necessary to protect public facilities and utility systems.

- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure Systems** – The White Paper seeks to “strengthen efforts to protect . . . our national critical infrastructure” through the integration of federal efforts working alongside the local, state, and private sectors.

As stewards of our country’s critical infrastructure, APWA advocates for increased funding to improve and develop infrastructure systems that are more resilient against natural threats and human-caused hazards.

- **Communication and Collaboration** – The White Paper suggests that “federal agencies and legislative committees should . . . work together to ensure a coordinated and unified national approach to homeland security, and consistent message to nonfederal stakeholders.”

APWA encourages the collaborative efforts between the federal government, states, localities, and stakeholders to improve coordination and foster open communication. APWA advocates for public works professionals to play a key role in all aspects of national policy development related to emergency preparedness and mitigation.

- **Interoperability** – The White Paper intends to develop a clear, shared definition, vision, and implementation strategy for nationwide communications interoperability.

APWA supports a unified national approach that would strengthen emergency communication systems that are timelier, transcend geographic borders and cover a broad spectrum of hazards.