

## **Appendix C: Local Training for Regional Assessment and Collaboration (L-TRAC) Executive Summary**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, Major City Chiefs of Police Association, Johns Hopkins University, Frazier Group LLC, Debonair Inc. and Homeland Security Associates Inc. have partnered to create Local Training for Regional Assessment and Collaboration (L-TRAC). L-TRAC offers a novel approach to the long-standing issue of the ability of local jurisdictions to significantly enhance their capabilities, and apply these capabilities more effectively, across their region.

L-TRAC builds upon existing successes across the nation by inviting first responder stakeholders to participate in a self-assessment forum that is then expanded to include regional collaboration. The L-TRAC partners believe that it is necessary to first create an *environment* that allows for honest assessment to build effective regional dialogue. This environment is created through a web-based, stakeholder-designed, self-assessment tool and instructor-led regional training sessions.

This stakeholder-driven training supports FEMA's efforts to better prepare the nation against all hazards using a regional response approach. The training focuses on a practical approach to regional capability-assessment by supporting jurisdictions in their efforts to assess their current capabilities, identify gaps and establish partnerships within their regions that will support open dialogue, effective collaboration and regional response.

Many national-level efforts have been pursued to improve homeland security, such as the redesign of the National Response Framework, the creation of capabilities-based planning, the issuance of the National Preparedness Goal, and, recently, the State Preparedness Reports. However, while these efforts have made significant improvements, they do not address the numerous shortfalls that still exist within communities across the nation. Further, communities are indicating that these national-level efforts do not adequately address their assessment needs.

With this in mind, the IAFC sought stakeholders from across the nation to build a tool to fill this vital gap: an assessment process that will provide an accurate assessment of capabilities and deficiencies.

Initial efforts are underway and the training tool is being implemented in beta sites across the nation. Initial feedback indicates that this training provides the necessary components to realize the value of the capabilities-based planning on a regional level. Feedback has also indicated that the training truly makes the Target Capabilities List operational. The overwhelming success of these beta tests, and the demand from other disciplines to share in the process, leads the IAFC to expect efficient results by expanding the training to other disciplines.

L-TRAC will provide localities with an effective multi-disciplinary, regionally-based assessment tool which will determine how prepared they are to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from catastrophic events. Localities will have an opportunity to utilize the innovative and comprehensive assessment tool, prior to the training, to attain their baseline of preparedness and identify their gaps. Once this information is analyzed, recognized gaps in preparedness can be filled by regional collaboration or appropriate state and local agencies, private sector partners, universities and other necessary entities within their region. This unique multi-modality training will focus on how to utilize the tool, identify resources required to fill the gaps and, most importantly, how to build effective dialogue with essential partners throughout their regions.