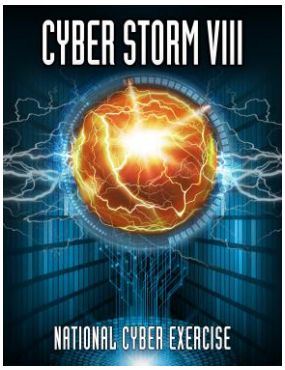
CYBER STORM VIII

NATIONAL CYBER EXERCISE

BACKGROUND



The Cyber Storm exercise series provides a venue for the federal government, state and local government, the private sector, and international partners to come together to simulate response to a large-scale, coordinated, significant cyber incident impacting the nation's critical infrastructure. Cyber Storm VIII, planned for Spring 2022, will allow participants to exercise their cyber incident response plans and identify opportunities for coordination and information sharing. Cyber Storm exercises have historically engaged more than 1,000 distributed players over the course of three days of live exercise play. Building on the success and momentum of Cyber Storm 2020 and lessons learned from real-world events, Cyber Storm VIII is positioned to meaningfully prepare participants for response to emerging and evolving threats.

ENHANCING CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

The cyber threat landscape continues to expand and advance, requiring public and private sectors to constantly evaluate their cyber incident response capabilities. Building on the outcomes of previous iterations, Cyber Storm VIII will examine all aspects of cyber incident response including potential or actual physical impacts of a coordinated cyber attack targeting critical infrastructure. Cyber Storm VIII provides a unique opportunity for organizations to evaluate their internal cyber incident response plans, while coordinating with those at the federal, state, and private sector levels. Together, participants will identify areas for growth and improvement to strengthen our national cyber resiliency.

Figure 1: Cyber Storm Exercise Series Benefits

CYBER STORM VIII PARTICIPATION

- Cyber Storm VIII includes organizations across federal, state, and international governments and the private sector
- Participating organizations will work directly with CISA to understand CISA's role and capabilities in a cyberattack.
- Participants operate in working groups to meet organization- and sector-specific objectives and improve coordination capabilities through the exercise.
- Benefits of participation include improved understanding of current cyber risks, awareness of incident response resources, strengthened relationships with counterparts, and refined communications strategies.

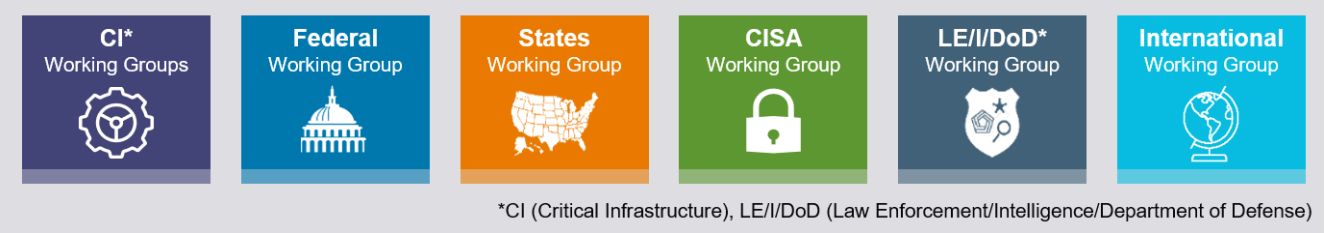


Figure 2: Cyber Storm VIII Working Groups

CYBER STORM VIII GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Cyber Storm VIII's primary goal is to strengthen cybersecurity preparedness and response capabilities by exercising policies, processes, and procedures for identifying and responding to a multi-sector significant cyber incident impacting critical infrastructure.

The exercise allows participants to stress-test response capabilities absent the consequences of a real-world event. During the exercise, there are no actual system attacks. Participants play from their regular work locations and operate within the responsibilities of their real-world role, communicating through standard channels as well as exercise channels as needed.

Figure 3: Cyber Storm VIII Objectives

PAST HIGHLIGHTS

Figure 4: Cyber Storm Exercise Series History

The Cyber Storm exercise series has evolved over time in step with the dynamic nature of cyber threats and the maturation of cyber incident response plans and policies. Cyber Storm I marked the first time the cyber response community came together to examine the national response to cyber incidents. Cyber Storm IV included 15 building block exercises to help communities and states exercise cyber response capabilities for escalating incidents.

During the most recent iteration, Cyber Storm 2020, more than 2,000 distributed players from approximately 210 organizations across critical infrastructure sectors exercised incident response procedures in a remote environment. Cyber Storm 2020 raised awareness of long-standing and ongoing vulnerabilities in the core infrastructure of the Internet. Cyber Storm VIII will build on lessons learned from all previous Cyber Storm exercises to challenge participants with a sophisticated scenario rooted in the evolving nature of today's cyber threats and increasingly connected world.

Please note that recruitment for Cyber Storm VIII is now closed. For more information on the Cyber Storm exercise series, please contact cyberstorm@cisa.dhs.gov