The State of Preparedness

A preparedness gap calls for a more proactive approach.

The majority of organizations and agencies don't have mitigation plans for the threats they are encountering, and fewer than half believe their programs are mature. In addition, most still feel responses are reactive and few feel equipped to be proactive about risk. Key obstacles are having the right technology, adequate funding and appropriately trained or skilled staff.

A preparedness gap exists. Is your organization or agency a part of it?

Only 45 percent of executives have a mitigation plan in place for natural disasters, even though it's the top physical threat on their radar for 2024. Likewise, 72 percent of state and local leaders say the biggest risk in 2024 is crime, yet only 63 percent have a mitigation plan in place for this threat.

For many leaders, **lack of adequate technology and training stand in the way of improving resilience management**. In fact, 45 percent of executives identified inadequate threat monitoring and detection as the biggest challenge or barrier to improving the resilience program at their organization.

Twenty-five percent of federal leaders said lack of technology was the biggest challenge or obstacle to improving resilience. State and local leaders (37 percent) said limited upskilling or training creates the biggest gap and challenge in their agency's planning, response and recovery program.

62%

of state and local government leaders surveyed said their response and recovery program meets more than minimum requirements, but they're challenged to sustain for specific hazards.
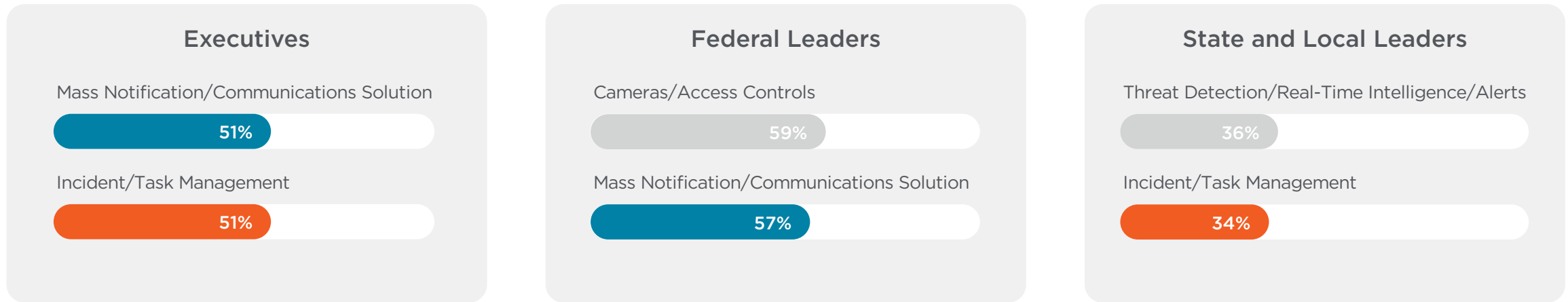
Only
23%
of executives and
6%
of federal leaders surveyed said they are proactive about identifying risk.

When assessing the current state of the technology used for threat and hazard mitigation, the most common types reported by executives and federal, state and local leaders were the following solutions: mass notification, incident and task management, threat detection, and security and access controls.

What technologies are currently being used for threat/hazard mitigation?

Executives

Mass Notification/Communications Solution

51%

Incident/Task Management

51%

Federal Leaders

Cameras/Access Controls

59%

Mass Notification/Communications Solution

57%

State and Local Leaders

Threat Detection/Real-Time Intelligence/Alerts

36%

Incident/Task Management

34%

As they look ahead and prepare for the threats on the horizon, executives and agency leaders see value in many of these same technologies, with 28 percent of executives and 22 percent of federal leaders saying that threat detection/real-time intelligence/alerts has the greatest potential to help improve their resilience program. A similar percent of executives (17 percent) and state and local leaders (18 percent) believe incident/task management will help, while 27 percent of federal leaders think historical threat data reporting/analysis holds the most promise when it comes to improving resilience.

To demonstrate how technology can help organizations and agencies close the preparedness gap and improve resilience management, we conducted a case study using our data from the 2020 presidential election. The results showcase the power of historical risk data for a truly proactive approach to mitigating dynamic risk that can help leaders better prepare for anticipated events like the 2024 election.

Risk in Focus

The Power of Historical Data in Preparation for the 2024 Election

The 2024 U.S. presidential election will likely cause protests, some of which may turn violent. Organization and agency leaders need to have a plan in place for civil unrest. Historical threat data is a valuable resource to help leaders understand vulnerabilities, make strategic decisions around resource allocation and identify high-risk locations.

Spotlight on the 2020 U.S. presidential election

- Election-related protests/riots spiked in major cities during November 2020, but were scattered across a larger region in January 2021.*

- The top five threats that appeared most often in conjunction with an election-related protest report were:

  1. Assault
  2. Shooting
  3. Fire
  4. Arson
  5. Homicide

*OnSolve Risk Intelligence Data

Refocus on Resilience

- Anticipate an increase in other crime/violence, notably assaults, shootings, fires and arson, and create comprehensive mitigation plans in advance.

- **Technology Tip:** Technology can help better understand risk exposure. Historical threat data enables risk leaders and emergency managers to identify the threats likely to occur the weeks before, during and after the 2024 election and make a strategic preparedness plan. As the election unfolds, real-time risk intelligence alerts leaders to threats quickly, so those plans can be carried out swiftly.

Read the full case study in the appendix on page 39.