



# ***“All Hazards Approach”:***

***Or, “Election Security without the “E”-word”***

Bill Ekblad

*Election Security Navigator*

# 2024:

- Continued focus on *“bad people doing bad things”*:
  - Cybersecurity
  - Physical Security
  - Localized mis/dis/mal-info  
(time/place/manner of voting)
- What about other stuff?
  - Natural Disasters
  - Utility Outages
  - Human Error (*“good people doing bad things”*)

## MN OSS Election Security Navigator Program

A brief history: (...now in our 5<sup>th</sup> year!)

- 2020: All about Cyber Security
- 2022: Let's add Physical Security, (+ Mis/Dis/Mal-Information)
- 2024: ? (AI? Election Interference? Others?)

## Our Approach

- Collaboration: our “secret weapon”!
  - Share situational awareness (up, down, sideways)
    - Stay connected
    - “See Something / Say Something”
  - Leverage all available resources for accurate information
    - Federal / State / Academia / Non-profit / Vendor
- Encourage voters to seek out trusted sources
  - Elections officials (State / local)

- State-level Focus Areas:
- Protecting state-wide systems (voter registration, results reporting, etc.)
  - Resource awareness and assistance
  - Grant funds

*“...we must prepare for everything.”*  
- Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Aug. 24, 2014  
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

*“Bad people doing bad things”* makes Election Day miserable...but so can other stuff!

# 2025 and forward: “All Hazards Approach”

## Comprehensive Strategy to:

- Build a broad range of **core capabilities** and response strategies to address any type of emergency or disaster
  - **Not:** *Planning for each specific hazard individually.*
- Emphasize commonalities in emergency situations
- Develop flexible plans that can be adapted to various scenarios

## But how?

- Develop / instill mindset in local elections partners
  - TTX scenarios
- Develop new / different partner relationships
  - County Emergency Managers --- Local Utility Providers --- Others?

### **Core Capabilities:**

- Communications
  - “Who else needs to know?”
- Planning / Plans
- Practice / Exercises

*Preparing to overcome whatever might get in the way of conducting an election*



# Bill Ekblad

*~~Election Security~~ “All Hazards” Navigator*  
*bill.ekblad@state.mn.us*