

## **Models, Simulations & Simulators (MS&S) – E-Tool Problem Statement**

Emergency response organizations considering purchasing modeling, simulation, and simulator technologies require a resource that provides them with selection criteria to help identify a solution that meets their needs. This resource should include questions for purchasers to ask vendors so that purchasers can determine if a particular product meets their requirements. Existing and developmental technologies for modeling, simulation, and simulators (as defined in following paragraphs) offer various opportunities to enhance and improve emergency preparedness and response training. However, industry sales representatives regularly approach emergency responders and government decision makers promoting their technologies as the next greatest modeling, simulation, and simulator solution. As a result, there can be a disconnect between the desired usage of a technology (i.e., what the user wants) and its intended purpose (i.e., what the system can provide). There is little guidance currently available to help make emergency preparedness agencies “educated consumers.”