

Introducing ...



National Response Framework



Homeland Security

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NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

What Is the *National Response Framework*?

The *National Response Framework* presents the guiding principles that enable all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies – from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe.

This important document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response.

The *Framework* defines the key principles, roles, and structures that organize the way we respond as a Nation. It describes how communities, tribes, States, the Federal Government, and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. It also identifies special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. The *Framework* enables first responders, decisionmakers, and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

How Did the *Framework* Evolve?

In recent years, our Nation has faced an unprecedented series of disasters and emergencies, and as a result our national response structures have evolved and improved to meet these threats. The *National Response Framework* reflects those improvements and replaces the former *National Response Plan (NRP)*.

This *Framework* represents a natural evolution of the national response architecture. Although the *NRP* was originally called a plan, it was actually a framework written to guide the integration of local, tribal, State, and Federal response efforts. By adopting the term “framework” within the title, this document is now more accurately aligned with its intended purpose.

Who Needs To Know About This *Framework*?

The *Framework* is written for senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, Governors, mayors, tribal leaders, and city or county officials – those who have a responsibility to provide an effective response to preserve the safety and welfare of the community.

At the same time, the *Framework* informs emergency management practitioners, explaining the operating structures and systems used routinely by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.

The *Framework* document is augmented with online access to supporting documents, further training, and an evolving resource for exchanging lessons learned.

An effective, unified national response requires layered, mutually supporting capabilities.

The Framework systematically incorporates public-sector agencies at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). It also emphasizes the importance of personal preparedness by individuals and households.



Sharing Resources and Best Practices

Looking for additional information?

The *National Response Framework (NRF)* Resource Center provides ready access to information and tools needed for all response partners to fulfill their roles under the *Framework*.

Key Documents

- **National Response Framework (NRF):** Delineates our Nation's response doctrine, responsibilities, and structures.
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS):** Establishes a systematic approach for managing incidents nationwide.
- **ESE, Support, and Incident Annexes:** Provide concept of operations, procedures, and structures for achieving response objectives.
- **National Strategy for Homeland Security:** Reflects the National Preparedness Guidelines, which include the National Planning Scenarios.
- **Response Partner Guides:** Provide a ready reference of key roles and actions for local, tribal, State, Federal, and private-sector response partners.



References

- Authorities and References
- Stafford Act Support Overview
- Federal-to-Federal Support Overview
- Task Books/Position Descriptions
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Glossary of Terms/Acronyms
- Additional Links

Learning Resources

- Job Aids
- Training Courses
- Online Videos

Comprehensive Information With Just One Click

<http://www.fema.gov/NRF>



A Framework for Sharpening National Response

The *National Response Framework* is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards response.

Guided by the input and help of many hundreds of stakeholders, the *Framework* represents a natural evolution of the national response architecture. Specifically, the *Framework*:

- Reflects lessons learned and defines the core principles for managing incidents.
- Broadens the focus from a purely Federal plan to one that is truly national.
- Methodically describes the who, what, and how of emergency preparedness and response.
- Articulates the five key principles of response doctrine.

Response Doctrine: Key Principles

- **Engaged Partnership.** Leaders at all levels must communicate and actively support engaged partnerships by developing shared goals and aligning capabilities so that no one is overwhelmed in times of crisis.
- **Tiered Response.** Incidents must be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional capabilities when needed.
- **Scalable, Flexible, and Adaptable Operational Capabilities.** As incidents change in size, scope, and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.
- **Unity of Effort Through Unified Command.** Effective unified command is indispensable to response activities and requires a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each participating organization.
- **Readiness To Act.** Effective response requires readiness to act balanced with an understanding of risk. From individuals, households, and communities to local, tribal, State, and Federal governments, national response depends on the instinct and ability to act.

National Response Framework Components

The *Framework's* clear, simple writing style makes the serious work of incident management understandable for government and business executives as well as emergency management practitioners. The *Framework* is structured as follows:

