

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The National Response Framework (NRF) is a comprehensive national guidance document that addresses roles, responsibilities, activities, and interdependencies for partners involved in response and short-term recovery actions to disasters and emergencies in the United States. This includes local, tribal, State, and Federal governments, as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

This Partner Guide provides a targeted index to information in the NRF core document that is specifically pertinent to local government leaders and emergency management practitioners. The Guide is intended to serve as a ready reference to assist users in quickly locating sections of the NRF that are applicable to local partners.

RESPONSE DOCTRINE

Response Doctrine..... NRF p. 8

Response doctrine defines basic roles, responsibilities, and operational concepts for response across all levels of government.

Engaged Partnership..... NRF p. 9

Engaged partnership includes ongoing communication of incident activity among all partners to the *Framework*, and shared situational awareness for a more rapid response.

Tiered Response..... NRF p. 10

Incidents must be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional capabilities when needed.

Scalable, Flexible, and Adaptable Operational Capabilities..... NRF p. 10

As incidents change in size, scope, and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.

Unity of Effort Through Unified Command.....NRF p. 10, 48

Unified command enables agencies with different legal, jurisdictional, and functional responsibilities to coordinate, plan, and interact effectively on scene.

Readiness To Act..... NRF p. 11

A forward-leaning posture is imperative for incidents that have the potential to expand rapidly in size, scope, or complexity, and for no-notice incidents.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following section denotes where information can be found within the NRF on the roles of local officials and other persons and organizations that local partners will most likely interface with prior to, during and after an incident.

Local Officials.....NRF p. 15

The responsibility for responding to incidents, both natural and manmade, begins at the local level – with individuals and public officials in the county, city, or town affected by the incident.

Chief Elected or Appointed Officials NRF p. 15

A mayor, city manager, or county commissioner, as a jurisdiction’s chief executive officer, is responsible for ensuring the public safety and welfare of the people of that jurisdiction. Specifically, this official provides strategic guidance and resources during preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Emergency management, including preparation and training for effective response, is a core obligation of local leaders.

Local Emergency Manager..... NRF p. 16

The local emergency manager has the day-to-day authority and responsibility for overseeing emergency management programs and activities. He or she works with chief elected and appointed officials to ensure that there are unified objectives with regard to the jurisdiction’s emergency plans and activities.

Local Department and Agency Heads NRF p. 17

The local emergency manager is assisted by, and coordinates the efforts of, employees in departments and agencies that perform emergency management functions. Department and agency heads collaborate with the emergency manager during development of local emergency plans and provide key emergency response resources.

Members of CongressNRF p. 16

Local leaders also work closely with their Members of Congress during incidents and on an ongoing basis regarding local preparedness capabilities and needs.

Individuals and Households.....NRF p. 17

Individuals and households play an important role in the overall emergency management strategy and contribute in numerous ways.

Private SectorNRF p. 18

**Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Support Annex
Private-Sector Coordination Support Annex**

The private sector plays a key role before, during, and after an incident. Many private-sector organizations are responsible for operating and maintaining portions of the Nation’s critical infrastructure. Participation of the private sector during a response varies based on the nature of the organization and the nature of the incident.

Nongovernmental Organizations.....NRF p. 20

Volunteer and Donations Management Support Annex

NGOs play enormously important roles before, during, and after an incident.

State GovernmentNRF p. 21

State Government Partner Guide

A primary role of State Government is to supplement and facilitate local efforts before, during, and after an incident.

Governor NRF p. 21

Governor’s Authorized Representative NRF p. 52

National Guard NRF p. 39

State Coordinating Officer NRF p. 52

State Homeland Security Advisor NRF p. 22

Federal GovernmentNRF p. 24

**Federal Government Partner Guide
Emergency Support Function Annexes
Incident Annexes
Support Annexes**

The Federal Government provides support to affected local, tribal, and/or State governments when requested.

LOCAL RESPONSE ACTIONS

All communities have two basic responsibilities: (1) follow the preparedness cycle to plan, organize, train, equip, exercise, and evaluate, in order to strengthen resources and build capabilities in a constant process of preparedness; and (2) conduct an informed response to incidents, by deploying the right personnel and resources, with the right training, as part of a single incident management structure, while remaining flexible and adaptable in order to tailor response to the particular needs of the incident.

Preparedness CycleNRF p. 27

The preparedness cycle includes six essential activities for responding to an incident: plan, organize, train, equip, exercise, and evaluate and improve. Actions for local stakeholders are identified for each activity.

Respond.....NRF p. 32

Four key actions typically occur in support of a response: (1) gain and maintain situational awareness; (2) activate and deploy key resources and capabilities; (3) effectively coordinate response actions; then, as the situation permits, (4) demobilize. These response actions' core elements are described below.

Gain and Maintain Situational Awareness – Local Actions NRF p. 33

Situational awareness requires continuous monitoring of relevant sources of information regarding actual and developing incidents.

Activate and Deploy Resources and Capabilities – Local Actions NRF p. 35

When an incident or potential incident occurs, local responders assess the situation, identify and prioritize requirements, and activate available resources and capabilities.

Coordinate Response Actions – Local Actions..... NRF p. 38

Coordination of response activities occurs through response structures based on assigned roles, responsibilities, and reporting protocols. Local jurisdictions are responsible for the management of their emergency functions.

Demobilize – Local Actions..... NRF p. 44

Demobilization is the orderly, safe, and efficient return of an incident resource to its original location and status.

Recover.....NRF p. 45

Recovery from an incident is unique to each community and depends on the amount and kind of damage caused by the incident and the resources that the jurisdiction has ready or can quickly obtain.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

When an incident exceeds or is expected to exceed the capabilities of a locality, local leaders can request assistance from neighboring jurisdictions, the State, or even the Federal Government.

Mutual Aid and AssistanceNRF p. 6, 38, 40, 48

Written or oral agreement between and among agencies/organizations and/or jurisdictions that provides a mechanism to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services.

State AssistanceNRF p. 38

States provide the majority of the external assistance to communities. The State is the gateway to several government programs that help communities prepare.

Federal Assistance.....NRF p. 40

When an incident overwhelms or is anticipated to overwhelm State resources, the Governor may request Federal assistance.

Stafford Act..... NRF p. 40

Overview of Stafford Act Support to States (NRF Resource Center)

The Stafford Act authorizes the President to provide financial and other assistance to State and local governments, certain private nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidential emergency or major disaster declarations.

Federal Assistance Without a Presidential Declaration..... NRF p. 42

Certain Federal departments and agencies have jurisdictional authorities to provide support directly to local jurisdictions.

LOCAL RESPONSE: STRUCTURES

The following section identifies the response structures with which local organizations will participate.

Response Concepts Impacting StructuresNRF p. 48

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) (www.fema.gov/emergency/nims) provides a set of core common concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies. NIMS provides a consistent template for managing incidents.

Incident Command System (ICS)NRF p. 48, 49

ICS is a management system designed to enable effective incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents.

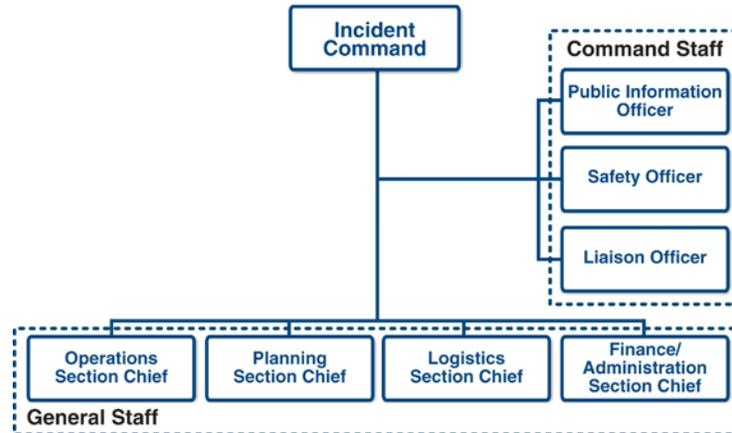
Multiagency Coordination System (MACS)..... NRF p. 48

Multiagency coordination systems provide the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination.

Unified CommandNRF p. 10, 48
An Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions.

Incident CommandNRF p. 49
Local responders use the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage response operations.

Figure 1. Incident Command Structure



Incident Command Post NRF p. 50
At the tactical level, on-scene incident command and management organization are located at an Incident Command Post, which is typically comprised of local and mutual aid responders.

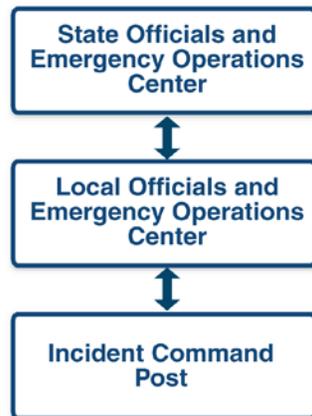
Incident Commander NRF p. 50
This is the individual responsible for all response activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources.

Area CommandNRF p. 50
An organization established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate ICS organization or to oversee the management of a very large or evolving incident that has multiple incident management teams engaged.

Local Emergency Operations (EOC)NRF p. 50
Local EOCs are the physical locations where multiagency coordination occurs.

State Emergency Operations CenterNRF p. 51
State EOCs are activated as necessary to support local EOCs.

Figure 2. Local and State Emergency Operations Centers



NRF RESOURCE CENTER

This Partner Guide and the documents referenced in it, as well as other materials that directly or indirectly support the NRF, can be found on the NRF Resource Center. To assist readers in implementing the *Framework*, the Resource Center is an online repository of supporting documents, resources, and educational materials. It is intended especially to assist emergency management practitioners. This repository provides a single, Web-based portal for documents, information, training materials, and other tools needed for response partners to understand and execute their roles under the *Framework*.

The online Resource Center's home page may be found at <http://www.fema.gov/NRF>.

NRF Documents

- NRF Brochure
- NRF Fact Sheet
- NRF Frequently Asked Questions
- NRF Emergency Support Function Annexes
- NRF Support Annexes
- NRF Incident Annexes
- NRF Partner Guides

Related Documents

- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC): Overview
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)
- National Preparedness Guidelines
- National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza

Supplemental Resources

- Authorities
- Glossary and Acronyms
- Overview of Stafford Act Support to States
- Overview of Federal-to-Federal Support
- JFO Task Books
- Training Resources

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER GUIDE

- Job Aids/SOPs
- What's New

Briefings

- NRF Rollout Briefing
- Overview Briefing for Local, Tribal, and State Response Partners
- Overview Briefing for the Private Sector
- Overview Briefing for Nongovernmental Organizations

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