



National Response Framework Update (Fourth Edition)

A lifeline is a sector that provides an indispensable service that enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions, and is critical to human health and safety, or economic security.

Why a lifelines construct?

Decision-makers must rapidly determine the scope, complexity, and interdependent impacts of a disaster. Applying the lifelines construct allows decision-makers to:

- Prioritize, sequence, and focus response efforts towards maintaining or restoring the most critical services and infrastructure
- Utilize a common lexicon to facilitate unity of purpose across all stakeholders
- Promote a response that facilitates unity of purpose and better communication amongst the whole community (Federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and private sector and non-governmental entities)
- Clarify which components of the disaster are complex (multifaceted) and/or complicated (difficult), requiring cross-sector coordination

How will lifelines be used?

- Enhance the ability to gain, maintain, and communicate situational awareness for the whole community in responding to disasters
- Analyze impacts to the various lifelines and develop priority focus areas for each operational period during response
- Identify and communicate complex interdependencies to identify major limiting factors hindering stabilization
- Update the National Response Framework to reflect use of lifelines in response planning

What are the opportunities of lifelines?

- Enable a true unity of effort between government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, including infrastructure owners and operators
- Integrate preparedness efforts, existing plans, and identify unmet needs to better anticipate response requirements
- Refine reporting sources and products to enhance situational awareness, best determine capability gaps, and demonstrate progress towards stabilization

Lifelines



Safety and Security



Energy (Power & Fuel)



Communications



Transportation



Food, Water, Sheltering



Hazardous Waste



Health and Medical

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