A lifeline provides 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

Communications

Food, Water, Sheltering

Transportation

Health and Medical

Hazardous Material

Energy (Power & Fuel)

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"With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values."