



## National Response Framework Update (Fourth Edition)

### Background

The [National Response Framework](#) (NRF), first released in 2008, is a guide for how our Nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. Built on the scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System, it is one of the five documents in the suite of National Planning Frameworks. Each covers one preparedness mission area: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, or Recovery.

### Why Update the NRF?

When disaster strikes, everyone has a role to play. Government resources alone cannot meet all community needs. As part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) renewed effort to build a national culture of preparedness, the NRF is being updated to incorporate lessons learned from the unprecedented 2017 hurricane and wildfire season.

The [2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report](#) specifically called for a revision of the NRF to emphasize stabilization of critical lifelines and coordination across the critical infrastructure sectors. As a Nation, closer partnerships with the private sector are crucial in providing commodities and support to disaster survivors.

### What Will Change?

The fourth edition of the NRF will reflect the relationship between business, industry, and infrastructure and will better align the Protection and Response Frameworks. Likely updates include:

- Additional emphasis on non-governmental capabilities to include the role of individuals and private sector/industry partners in responding to disasters
- A new Emergency Support Function to leverage existing coordination mechanisms between the government and infrastructure owners/operators
- Focus on outcomes-based response through the prioritization of the rapid stabilization of life-saving and life sustaining lifelines

### Community Lifelines

A lifelines construct, focused on outcomes-based stabilization efforts, will be included in the NRF update.

#### Lifelines definition

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 (i.e., safety and security; food, water, sheltering; health and medical; energy [power and fuel]; communications; transportation; and hazardous material).

#### Why a lifelines construct?

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

- Prioritize, sequence, and focus response efforts towards maintaining or restoring the most critical services and infrastructure
- Utilize a common lexicon across various stakeholders
- Promote a response that facilitates unity of purpose and better communication amongst the whole community
- Clarify which components of the disaster require cross-sector coordination

### What Will Not Change?

The updated NRF will continue to focus on the capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs during disasters. The NRF will continue to be scalable, flexible and adaptable, using the core capabilities identified in the [National Preparedness Goal](#).

### For More Information

For the latest information on the update, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks> and email [NRF@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:NRF@fema.dhs.gov) to be informed of opportunities to provide feedback.

Visit us at <http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks>