



COMMUNITY LIFELINES

A lifeline enables the continuous operation of government functions and critical business and is essential 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 (state, tribal, territorial, local, regional, Federal, private sector, non-profit and other community partners).
- Clarify which components of the disaster are complex (multifaceted) and/or complicated (difficult), requiring cross-sector coordination.

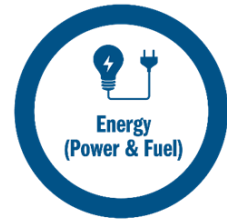
How will lifelines be used?

- 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 community 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.

Community lifelines



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If you have any questions or feedback, please email them to: Lifelines@fema.dhs.gov