Why lifelines?

- FEMA developed the community lifelines construct to increase effectiveness in disaster operations and better position the Agency to respond to catastrophic incidents.
- Lifelines are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society.
- When disrupted, decisive intervention (e.g., rapid service re-establishment or employment of contingency response solutions) is required.
- During initial response, priority efforts focus on stabilizing community lifelines.
- Lifelines provide an outcome-based, survivor-centric frame of reference that assists responders with:
  - Root Cause Analysis
  - Interdependencies
  - Prioritization
  - Ease of Communication

How were lifelines developed?

- FEMA released initial guidance (*Lifelines Toolkit*) introducing the lifelines construct in February 2019, followed by significant stakeholder outreach and feedback including:
  - State and Local Emergency Managers
  - Interagency Partners
  - Private and Non-Profit Stakeholders
- Construct was validated during responses to Hurricanes Michael, Florence, and Dorian, Super Typhoon Yutu, Alaska Earthquake, and during Shaken Fury full-scale exercise.
- Lessons learned from exercises, operations, and stakeholder feedback resulted in refinement and improvement to the construct.
- Enhanced Lifelines guidance (*Lifelines Toolkit 2.0*) released to support NRF Publication.

See the Lifelines Toolkit at: https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/177222

If you have any questions or feedback, please email them to: Lifelines@fema.dhs.gov
**Definition**
A lifeline enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions and is essential to human health and safety or economic security.

**Purpose**
- Root Cause Analysis
- Interdependencies
- Prioritization
- Ease of Communication

**Assessing**
- Status → What?
- Impact → So What?
- Actions → Now What?
- Limiting Factors → What’s the Gap?

**Stabilization**
Occurs when basic lifeline services or capabilities are provided to survivors (may be temporary solutions requiring sustainment).