Community Lifelines

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.

Graphic

**Lifelines Drive Response**

_Incident responders assess lifeline condition, establish priorities, organize lines of effort, and respond until the lifelines are stabilized_

View the Lifelines Toolkit online at: [Community Lifelines Implementation Toolkit | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/community-lifelines-implementation-toolkit)

If you have any questions or feedback, please email them to: [Lifelines@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Lifelines@fema.dhs.gov)