

# National Risk Index and Risk Communication

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The [National Risk Index](#) is a new, online application from FEMA that identifies communities most at risk to natural hazards.

## About the National Risk Index

The Risk Index is an online mapping application that visualizes natural hazard risk metrics based on 18 natural hazards, expected annual losses from natural hazards, social vulnerability, and community resilience. With this tool, you can discover a holistic view of community risk to natural hazards.

## Risk Communication and Why It Matters

Communicating potential risks can be challenging. It can be hard for communities to visualize how a disaster that has not happened yet will affect a neighborhood or business. Even if communities are aware of disaster risk, it does not always mean they will take the necessary preparatory actions. Risk communication can help bridge the gap between awareness and action by identifying and resolving barriers to understanding risk. It helps stakeholders strategically communicate natural hazard risk to target audiences and support mitigation actions.

## The National Risk Index as a Natural Hazard Risk Communication Tool

The National Risk Index helps illustrate how communities may be affected by different natural hazards and how specific factors, such as community resilience and social vulnerability, affect these risks. In addition, the tool supports risk communication by providing data or proof points that support messaging about hazard risk. Because the data are available at both the county and Census tract scales, it provides a granular identification of risk, which is useful in specific messages.

### Get Started

- **Access the Application:** Visit the National Risk Index's website at <https://www.fema.gov/nri>.
- **Explore the Map:** Search different areas and learn more about your local natural hazard risk.
- **Create a Report:** Download/print a summary or compare risks between different Census tracts or counties.
- **Learn More:** Use the interactive platform, data, and documentation to help better understand what factors make your community at risk to natural hazards.

For more information or to submit comments or questions, send an email to [FEMA-NRI@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NRI@fema.dhs.gov).



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