

# Community Lifelines

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## 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.
- *National Response Framework (NRF) 4th Edition* formalized lifelines in national response policy

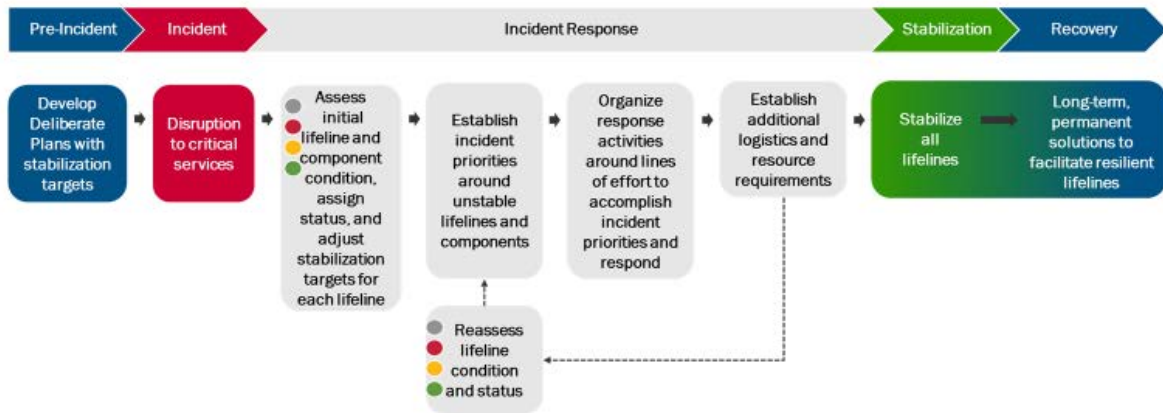


- Enhanced Lifelines guidance (*Lifelines Toolkit 2.0*) released to support NRF Publication.

Graphic

## Lifelines Drive Response

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



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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)

