



National Response Framework (NRF) – FACT SHEET

What Is the National Response Framework?

The *National Response Framework* is a guide that details how the Nation conducts all-hazards response– from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe. This document establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The Framework identifies the key response principles, as well as the roles and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply these principles for a coordinated, effective national response. In addition, it describes special circumstances where the Federal Government exercises a larger role, including incidents where Federal interests are involved and catastrophic incidents where a State would require significant support. It lays the groundwork for first responders, decision-makers and supporting entities to provide a unified national response.

In addition to releasing the NRF base document, the Emergency Support Function Annexes and Support Annexes are available on-line at the NRF Resource Center (www.fema.gov/nrf). The annexes are a total of 23 individual documents designed to provide concept of operations, procedures and structures for achieving response directives for all partners in fulfilling their roles under the NRF.

Audiences

The NRF is written especially for government executives, private-sector business, and nongovernmental leaders and emergency management practitioners. The NRF's clear, simple style makes the serious work of incident management understandable for newly elected or appointed government officials, business executives, as well as seasoned practitioners.

- The NRF is addressed to senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, State governors, mayors, tribal leaders or city managers – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective emergency management.
- The NRF also informs emergency management practitioners, explaining the operating structures and tools used routinely by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.
- The **NRF Resource Center** (www.fema.gov/NRF) is an important online reference center that provides stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations access to the NRF and supporting documents.

Identifies Response Doctrine

The NRF retains the same core principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in which first responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together more closely to effectively respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism.

Draws Focus on Preparedness

Effective preparedness is a critical precondition for successful response. The NRF encourages a higher level of readiness by drawing a sharper focus on the value of the following preparedness activities: planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, and applying lessons learned. Mastery of these key functions supports unity of effort, and thus our ability to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs.

Guides the Conduct of All-Hazards Response

Through engaged partnerships with elected and appointed officials, dedicated emergency management practitioners, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector, and by applying common NIMS principles and response doctrine, government at all levels can respond more effectively to incidents and better serve our communities and the nation.

The *NRF* is built on the following five principles:

- Engaged partnerships
- Tiered response
- Scalable, flexible and adaptable operational capabilities
- Unity of effort through unified command
- Readiness to act