



Department of Homeland Security / Federal Emergency Management Agency

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GENERAL

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prepares the nation for hazards, manages Federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident.

FEMA provides guidance, policy and program advice, and technical assistance in hazardous materials, chemical, and radiological emergency preparedness activities (including planning, training, and exercising). FEMA's primary point of contact for administering financial and technical assistance to state and local governments to support their efforts to develop and maintain an effective emergency management and response capability is the Preparedness, Training, and Exercises Directorate.

FEMA has more than 2,600 full time employees. They work at FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C., at regional and area offices across the country, the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center, and the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. FEMA also has nearly 4,000 standby disaster assistance employees who are available for deployment after disasters. Often FEMA works in partnership with other organizations that are part of the nation's emergency management system. These partners include state and local emergency management agencies, 27 federal agencies and the American Red Cross.

The National Strategy for Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 served to mobilize and organize our nation to secure the homeland from terrorist attacks. This exceedingly complex mission requires a focused effort from our entire society if we are to be successful. To this end, one primary reason for the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was to provide the unifying core for the vast national network of organizations and institutions involved in efforts to secure our nation. In order to better do this and to provide guidance to the 180,000 DHS men and women who work every day on this important task, the DHS developed its own high-level strategic plan. The vision and mission statements, strategic goals and objectives provide the framework guiding the actions that make up the daily operations of the department

Mission and Goals

The primary mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. To meet this mission, FEMA's goals are to:

- Lead the Nation's efforts to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters, including catastrophic incidents;
- Partner with state, local, and tribal governments and emergency response providers, other Federal agencies, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations to build a national system of emergency management that can effectively and efficiently utilize the full measure of the Nation's resources to respond to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters, including catastrophic incidents;
- Develop a Federal response capability that, when necessary and appropriate, can act effectively and rapidly to deliver assistance essential to saving lives or protecting or preserving property or public health and safety in a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other manmade disaster;
- Integrate the Agency's emergency preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation responsibilities to confront effectively the challenges of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other manmade disaster;
- Develop and maintain robust regional offices that will work with State, local, and tribal governments, emergency response providers, and other appropriate entities to identify and address regional priorities;

Mission and Goals (con't)

- Coordinate with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, the Assistant Secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the National Operations Center, and other agencies and offices in the Department to take full advantage of the substantial range of resources in the Department;
- Provide funding, training, exercises, technical assistance, planning, and other assistance to build local, tribal, State, regional, and national capabilities (including communications capabilities) necessary to respond to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other manmade disaster; and
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of a risk-based, all-hazards strategy for preparedness that builds those common capabilities necessary to respond to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters while also building the unique capabilities necessary to respond to specific types of incidents that pose the greatest risk to our Nation.

Among other duties, the Homeland Security Act also assigns certain responsibilities to the Administrator specific to the National Response Plan (NRP), now the NRF, and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including: building a comprehensive national incident management system with Federal, State, and local government personnel, agencies, and authorities to respond to attacks and disasters; consolidating existing Federal emergency response plans into a single, coordinated national response plan; and administering and ensuring the implementation of the NRP, including coordinating and ensuring the readiness of each Emergency Support Function (ESF) under the NRP.

FEMA has 10 regional offices that coordinate ESF-10 and other function activations:

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| I. Boston, MA | VI. Denton, TX |
| II. New York, NY | VII. Kansas City, MO |
| III. Philadelphia, PA | VIII. Denver, CO |
| IV. Atlanta, GA | IX. San Francisco, CA |
| V. Chicago, IL | X. Bothell, WA |

The Philadelphia Office covers the jurisdictional area served by FEMA RIII.

Role/Responsibility

During a response, under the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for oil and hazardous materials, under the Stafford Act for presidentially declared disasters or emergency, or under the National Response Framework, FEMA plays a significant role in the federal response. Their primary strategic goals include:

- **Awareness** — Identify and understand threats, assess vulnerabilities, determine potential impacts and disseminate timely information to our homeland security partners and the American public.
- **Prevention** — Detect, deter and mitigate threats to our homeland.
- **Protection** — Safeguard our people and their freedoms, critical infrastructure, property and the economy of our Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

- **Response** — Lead, manage and coordinate the national response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- **Recovery** — Lead national, state, local and private sector efforts to restore services and rebuild communities after acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- **Service** — Serve the public effectively by facilitating lawful trade, travel and immigration.
- **Organizational Excellence** — Value our most important resource, our people. Create a culture that promotes a common identity, innovation, mutual respect, accountability and teamwork to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and operational synergies.

Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- The Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act,
- Executive Order 12148 — Federal Emergency Management
- Executive Order 12656 — Assignment Of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities
- Executive Order 12777 - Outlines the responsibilities of certain Federal agencies in preventing and containing discharges of oil and hazardous substances
- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act
- The Defense Production Act of 1950 as Amended
- The National Emergencies Act
- HSPD-5 - Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-7 - Critical Infrastructure
- HSPD-8 - National Preparedness
- HSPD-9 - Defense of United States Agriculture and Food



Response Requirements

During times of national threat or a Presidential Declaration, DHS serves as the planning integrator for the President for a more robust federal incident management capability and in order to coordinate all Federal incident Management Activities in support of our State and local partners. All Federal departments and agencies may play significant roles in incident management and response activities, depending on the nature and size of an event. FEMA coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by calling up, as needed, one or more of the 15 ESFs.

Each of these functions are coordinated by a single agency (Primary ESF Coordinating Agency) but may rely on other agencies (Support Agencies) to provide resources for each functional area. The mission of the ESFs is to provide the greatest possible access to capabilities of the Federal Government regardless of which agency has those capabilities. Under the National Response Framework (formerly known as the National Response Plan), FEMA and its member agencies and services play a role (either as the Primary or as a Support agency) for the following ESFs:

ESF #	Primary Agency	Support Agency
1 Transportation		X
2 Communications	X	
3 Public Works & Engineering	X	
4 Firefighting		X
5 Emergency Management	X	
6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services	X	
7 Logistics Management and Resource Support	X	
8 Public Health and Medical Services		X
9 Search and Rescue	X	
10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response		X
11 Agriculture and Natural Resources		X
12 Energy		
13 Public Safety and Security		
14 Long-Term Community Recovery	X	
15 External Affairs	X	