



## National Response Framework

Government resources alone cannot meet all the needs of those affected by terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other catastrophic events. When disaster strikes, people throughout the community and our nation pitch in to help the response effort.

The second edition of the **National Response Framework**, updated in 2013, provides context for how the whole community works together and how response efforts relate to other parts of national preparedness. It is one of the five documents in the suite of National Planning Frameworks. Each covers one preparedness mission area: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response or Recovery.

### Focus on Immediate Needs

The Response Framework covers the capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred. Response activities take place immediately before, during, and in the first few days after a major or catastrophic disaster. Then, recovery efforts begin to help the community get back on its feet.

Roles and activities found in other Frameworks affect response efforts in many ways. For example, when people proactively do things to lessen the impact of future disasters—as described in the National Mitigation Framework—they may need fewer response resources when a disaster strikes.

### The Updated Response Framework

While some other Frameworks *debuted* in 2013, the second edition of the National Response Framework (NRF) is based on an existing version released in 2008. The new NRF incorporates

### Response Core Capabilities

Core capabilities are the distinct elements needed to achieve the National Preparedness Goal. There are 14 covered in the National Response Framework:

- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Operational Coordination
- Critical Transportation
- Environmental Response/Health and Safety
- Fatality Management Services
- Infrastructure Systems
- Mass Care Services
- Mass Search and Rescue Operations
- On-Scene Security and Protection
- Operational Communications
- Public and Private Services and Resources
- Public Health and Medical Services
- Situational Assessment.

The Framework also lists several critical tasks for each core capability. Here's an example under the Public Information and Warning core capability:

*Deliver credible messages to inform ongoing emergency services and the public about protective measures and other life-sustaining actions and facilitate the transition to recovery.*

To see all critical tasks, download the Framework at <http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks>.

a focus on whole community and core capabilities. For example, the Framework now describes the important roles of individuals, families and households in response activities.

Also, the Frameworks are intended to be strategic documents, with tactical planning and concept of operations content reserved for the new Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOPs). As a result, the revised NRF is shorter and more strategic than its predecessor.

## Changes in the New NRF

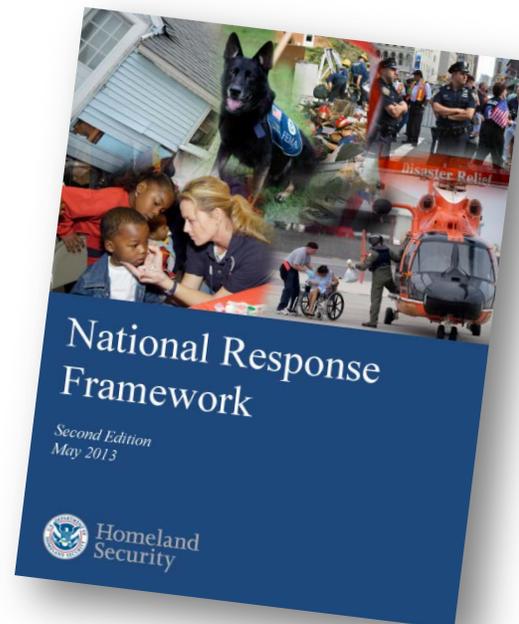
The Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) maintain their prominence in the updated NRF, as they are a proven and effective way to bundle and manage resources. They are included as the primary coordinating structures at the Federal level.

The revised National Response Framework:

- Has a modified **structure** that is consistent with the other National Planning Frameworks released in 2013
- Incorporates the **“whole community”** term and concept. The concept is consistent with 2008 NRF, but was not called “whole community” until the revision
- Recognizes **Families, Individuals and Households** as a main component of the whole community. The Framework has a section to describe their roles and responsibilities and incorporates related activities and coordinating structures
- Features the **core capabilities** aligned to the Response mission area, and provides definitions, critical tasks and examples of organizations that deliver each capability
- Identifies the **Emergency Support Functions** (ESFs) as the primary Federal coordinating structures for delivering Response core capabilities. The 2008 NRF included ESFs, but did not formally recognize them as coordinating structures
- Removed the **Planning chapter** from the existing NRF, as it will have a more appropriate home in the new Response FIOP. The revised NRF briefly discusses planning and refers to the FIOP

- Removed the **Recovery section**, as the content now resides in the National Disaster Recovery Framework, released in 2011
- Removed the descriptions of **positions and responsibilities at the field support structure level**, as they will be covered in the Response FIOP
- Places greater emphasis on the role of Federal agencies in **non-Stafford Act incidents**.

To learn more about the updates to the National Response Framework and Emergency Support Functions, visit <http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks>.



**Exhibit 1: Cover of the National Response Framework**

**Visit us at <http://www.fema.gov/nationalpreparedness>**

05/01/2013

## About the Frameworks

The National Planning Frameworks, one for each preparedness mission area, describe how the whole community works together to achieve the National Preparedness Goal. The Goal is: “A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

The Frameworks foster a shared understanding of our roles and responsibilities from the fire house to the White House. They help us understand how we, as a nation, coordinate, share information and work together—which ultimately results in a more secure and resilient nation.

The National Disaster Recovery Framework was released in September 2011. The National Prevention Framework, National Mitigation Framework and a second edition of the National Response Framework were released in May 2013. The National Protection Framework is under development.

Each of the Frameworks:

- Explains the purpose of the document, including the guiding principles, scope of mission area and application of risk
- Summarizes the roles and responsibilities of each part of the whole community
- Defines the mission area’s core capabilities, along with examples of critical tasks for each capability
- Lists a sampling of coordinating structures—either new or existing—that enable the effective delivery of the core capabilities
- Describes the relationships between the Frameworks and mission areas

- Identifies relevant planning assumptions required to inform the development of interagency operational plans and department level plans
- Provides information that state, local, tribal and territorial governments and private sector partners can use to develop or revise their plans
- Applies concepts from existing national doctrine, such as the National Incident Management System, whenever possible.

## Whole Community Approach

The Frameworks follow the whole community approach to preparedness, which recognizes that everyone can contribute to and benefit from national preparedness efforts. This includes individuals and families (including those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs), businesses, community and faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations and all levels of government.

Visit us at <http://www.fema.gov/nationalpreparedness>

05/01/2013