

HOW DISASTER RESPONSE IS SUPPOSED TO WORK

Success in dealing with disasters depends primarily on how well prepared, organized and coordinated we are.

DISASTER RESPONSE :

Responding to a catastrophic situation and providing humanitarian aid to people who have suffered from some form of **disaster**.

The aim of emergency response is to provide immediate assistance to preserve and protect life and property.

IT INCLUDES:

Warning/evacuation, search and rescue, providing immediate assistance, assessing damage, continuing assistance and the immediate restoration of infrastructure.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE:

The first people to respond to a disaster are those living in the local community. They are the first to start rescue and relief operations.

The Red Cross has engaged worldwide in leading disaster preparedness, development of policies, and training in planning, to assist communities and governments to reduce their vulnerability and strengthen capacity.

When the capacity of a community or country to respond and recover from a disaster is overwhelmed, the Red Cross uses its regional and international networks, assets and resources to get assistance there.

FEMA:

Mission: to support citizens and first responders to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

They provide:

Public Assistance (PA): Disaster **grant** assistance available for communities to quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President

Emergency Work: Work that must be performed to reduce or eliminate an immediate threat to life, protect public health and safety, and to protect improved property that is significantly threatened due to disasters or emergencies declared by the President

Permanent Work: Work that is required to restore a damaged facility, through repair or restoration, to its pre-disaster design, function, and capacity in accordance with applicable codes and standards

*Dollars Approved: Assistance dollars approved but not necessarily disbursed.

*Dollars Obligated: Funds made available to the State via electronic transfer following FEMA's final review and approval of Public Assistance projects.

2003 – FEMA placed under Homeland Security; prepare 1st responders for WMD.

2006 - Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 was the most devastating natural disaster in U.S. history. Gaps that became apparent in the response to that disaster led to the **Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA)**.

FEMA was reorganized, provided it substantial new authority to remedy gaps in response, and included a more robust preparedness mission for FEMA. This act:

- Establishes a Disability Coordinator and develops guidelines to accommodate individuals with disabilities
- Establishes the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System to reunify separated family members.

- Coordinates and supports precautionary evacuations and recovery efforts.
- Provides transportation assistance for relocating and returning individuals displaced from their residences
- Provides case management assistance to address unmet needs of survivors of major disasters.

- Employs the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF) as the framework for emergency response and domestic incident management.
- Requires comprehensive plans to respond to catastrophic incidents to include clear standardization, guidance, and assistance to ensure common terminology, approach, and framework for all strategic and operational planning
- Directs the development of a National Disaster Recovery Strategy and National Disaster Housing Strategy.
- Requires an annual report to Congress on all Federal planning and preparedness efforts.
- Adds protection for household pets and service animals.