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 third edition of the **National Response Framework** 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 National Response Framework covers the capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs after an incident has occurred. The National Response Framework is built on scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System to align key roles and responsibilities across the Nation.

Response activities take place immediately before, during, and in the first few days after a major or catastrophic disaster. Recovery efforts help the community get back on its feet and focus on how best to restore, redevelop, and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural, and environmental fabric of the community.

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.

What's New?

The updated National Response Framework incorporates critical edits in the refreshed Nation Preparedness Goal, including lessons learned from real world events and continuing implementation of the National Preparedness System. These edits include:

- The addition of one new core capability–Fire Management and Suppression.
- Three revised core capability titles:
    - Logistics and Supply Chain Management;
    - On-scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement; and
    - Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services.
- Three revised core capability definitions
    - Environmental Response/ Health and Safety;
    - Fatality Management Services; and
    - Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Other edits include:

- Additional language on science and technology investments to support the development of core capabilities to respond to evolving hazards.

About the Frameworks

The National Planning Frameworks 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."

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 local, state, 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.

Response Core Capabilities

Core capabilities are the distinct elements needed to achieve the National Preparedness Goal. The Response Framework describes each of its 15 core capabilities and lists critical tasks for each one. The capabilities, followed by a critical task example, are listed below.

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

- **Planning.** Develop operational plans that adequately identify critical objectives based on the planning requirements, provide a complete and integrated picture of the sequence and scope of the tasks to achieve the objectives, and are implementable within the time frame contemplated in the plan using available resources.

- **Public Information and Warning.** Deliver credible and actionable messages to inform ongoing emergency services and the public about protective measures and other life-sustaining actions and facilitate the integration of recovery activities.

- **Operational Coordination.** Enhance and maintain command, control, and coordination structures, consistent with the National Incident Management System, to meet basic human needs, stabilize the incident, and facilitate the integration of recovery activities.

- **Critical Transportation.** Monitor and report the status of and damage to the transportation system and infrastructure.

- **Environmental Response/Health and Safety.** Minimize public exposure to environmental hazards through assessment of the hazards and implementation of public protective actions.

- **Fatality Management Services.** Establish and maintain operations to recover a significant number of fatalities over a geographically dispersed area.

- **Fire Management and Suppression.** Conduct expanded or extended attack firefighting and support operations through coordinated response of fire management and specialized fire suppression resources.

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Response Core Capabilities Cont.

- **Infrastructure Systems.** Re-establish critical infrastructure within the affected areas to support ongoing emergency response operations, life sustainment, community functionality, and facilitate the integration of recovery activities.

- **Logistics and Supply Chain Management.** Enhance public and private resource and services support for an affected area.

- **Mass Care Services.** Move and deliver resources and capabilities to meet the needs of disaster survivors, including children and adults with disabilities and/or access and functional needs.

- **Mass Search and Rescue Operations.** Initiate community-based search and rescue support operations across a wide geographically dispersed area.

- **On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement.** Provide and maintain on-scene security and meet the protection needs of the affected population over a geographically dispersed area while eliminating or mitigating the risk of further damage to persons, property, and the environment.

- **Operational Communications.** Ensure the capacity to communicate with both the emergency response community and the affected populations and establish interoperable voice and data communications between local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal first responders.

- **Public Health, Healthcare, Emergency Medical Services.** Deliver medical countermeasures to exposed populations.

- **Situational Assessment.** Deliver enhances information to reinforce ongoing lifesaving and life-sustaining activities, and engage governmental, private, and civic sector resources within and outside of the affected area to meet basic human needs, stabilize the incident, and facilitate the integration of recovery activities.

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.
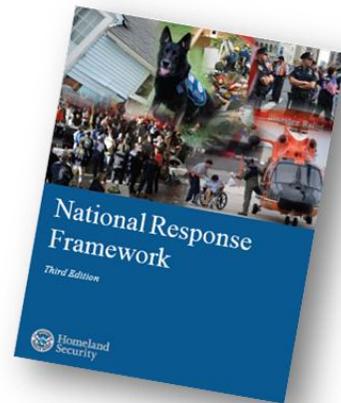

Exhibit 1: Cover of the National Response Framework

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"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."