

Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the National Response Framework. The course is divided into four lessons.

To help you keep track of your place in the course, the current lesson title will be displayed in the center of the screen under the course title. In addition, a Lesson List will be presented at the beginning and end of each lesson.

Each lesson overview will state the approximate length of the lesson.

Introducing the National Response Framework - Transcript

In recent years, our nation has faced an unprecedented series of disasters and emergencies. As a result, our national response structures have evolved and improved to meet these threats.

The National Response Framework is one of five national frameworks within the National Preparedness System. The national frameworks describe how we build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities in five mission areas – Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. As such, the National Response Framework explains how, at all levels, the nation effectively manages all-hazards response. It provides a road map for all types of disasters and emergencies – from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe.

Building on the National Incident Management System, the Framework describes principles, roles and responsibilities, and coordinating structures for delivering the core capabilities required to respond to an incident. The approaches and structures described in the Framework foster response partnerships across the whole community, including all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and individuals and households. Given its flexibility and scalability, the National Response Framework is always in effect, and elements can be implemented at any level and at any time according to the unique needs, capabilities, demographics, and governing structures of the jurisdiction. The Framework establishes a response vision through five key principles.

The first principle, Engaged Partnership, means that leaders at all levels support engagement of the whole community by developing shared goals and aligning capabilities so that no one is overwhelmed in times of crisis.

The next principle is Tiered Response. Incidents must be managed at the lowest possible jurisdictional level and supported by additional capabilities when needed.

The third principle is Scalable, Flexible, and Adaptable Operational Capabilities. As incidents change in size, scope, and complexity, the response must adapt to meet requirements.

The fourth principle is Unity of Effort Through Unified Command. Unity of effort respects the chain of command and each participating organization while ensuring (harnessing) seamless coordination across jurisdictions in support of common objectives.

The last principle is Readiness To Act. It is our collective duty to provide the best response possible. From individuals, households, and communities to local, tribal, state, territorial, insular-area, and Federal governments, national response depends on our readiness to act.

The National Response Framework strives to improve coordination among all response partners, and through these partnerships, we can work together to help save lives and protect America's communities.

Purpose

The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide to how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies.

The National Response Framework is built on scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

The term "response" as used in the National Response Framework includes:

- Actions to save lives, protect property and the environment, stabilize the incident, and meet basic human needs following an incident
- The execution of emergency plans and actions to enable recovery

[Select this link to access a copy of the National Response Framework.](http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks) (<http://www.fema.gov/national-planning-frameworks>)

Course Goal

The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the National Response Framework and the ways it is applied in actual response situations.

The National Response Framework explains how, at all levels, the nation effectively manages all-hazards response. It describes specific authorities and best practices for managing all types of disasters and emergencies, from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe.

Course Objectives

Terminal Objective

At the end of this course, the students will be able to describe how the National Response Framework is applied to manage all-hazards response.

Enabling Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the purpose, scope, organization, and underlying doctrine of the National Response Framework.
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of response partners.
- Describe core capabilities for response and actions required to deliver those capabilities.
- Describe coordinating structures and operational planning used to support emergency response.
- Describe how the stabilization of the seven Community Lifelines reduces threats to public health and safety, or economic security.

Relationship to NIMS

The response protocols and structures described in the National Response Framework align with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). All of the components of the NIMS support response—including resource management, command and coordination*, communications and information management.

Standardizing national response doctrine with NIMS provides a consistent, nationwide template to enable the whole community to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the effects of incidents regardless of their cause, size, location, or complexity.

*The NRF incorrectly uses the term "management and coordination".

[View the National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) document](https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system) (https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system).

Intended Audience

The National Response Framework is intended to provide guidance for the whole community. Within this broad audience, the National Response Framework focuses especially on those who are involved in delivering and applying the response core capabilities, including:

- Private sector partners
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Government officials
- Community leaders
- Emergency management practitioners
- First responders

Government resources alone cannot meet the needs of those affected by major disasters. All elements of the community must be activated, engaged, and integrated to respond to a major or catastrophic incident.

By providing equal access to acquire and use the necessary knowledge and skills, this Framework is intended to enable the whole community to contribute to and benefit from national preparedness. This includes:

- Children
- Older adults
- Individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs
- Those from religiously, racially, and ethnically diverse backgrounds
- People with limited English proficiency
- Owners of animals, including household pets and service and assistance animals

Scope

The Response mission area focuses on ensuring that the nation is able to respond effectively to all types of incidents, ranging from those that are adequately handled with local assets to those that are of catastrophic proportions and require marshalling the capabilities of the entire nation.

The National Response Framework describes the principles, roles and responsibilities, and coordinating structures for delivering the core capabilities required to stabilize community lifelines; it further describes how response efforts integrate with those of the other mission areas.

[Select this link to review the full text of the Scope section of the NRF.](#)

Scope

The National Response Framework describes structures for implementing nationwide response policy and operational coordination for all types of domestic incidents. This section describes the scope of the Response mission area, the guiding principles of response doctrine and the application of those principles, and the ways in which risk informs response planning.

The Response mission area focuses on ensuring that the nation is able to respond effectively to all types of incidents, ranging from those that are adequately handled with Local assets to those of catastrophic proportions that require marshaling the capabilities of the entire nation. The objectives of the Response mission area define the capabilities necessary to save lives, protect property and the environment, meet basic human needs, stabilize the incident, restore basic services and community functionality, and establish a safe and secure environment moving toward recovery. The NRF describes the principles, roles and responsibilities, and coordinating structures for delivering the core capabilities required to respond to an incident, and also describes how response efforts integrate with those of the other mission areas.

The NRF is always in effect, and elements can be implemented at any time. The structures, roles, and responsibilities described in the NRF can be partially or fully implemented in the context of a threat or hazard, in anticipation of a significant event, or in response to an incident. Selective implementation of NRF structures and procedures allows for a scaled response, delivery of the specific resources and capabilities, and a level of coordination appropriate to each incident.