National Response Framework

- **Purpose**
  - Guides how the nation conducts all-hazards incident response
- **Published January 2008**
- **Key Concepts**
  - Builds on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) with its flexible, scalable, and adaptable coordinating structures
  - Aligns key roles and responsibilities across jurisdictions
  - Links all levels of government, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations in a unified approach to emergency management
  - Always in effect: can be partially or fully implemented
  - Coordinates Federal assistance without need for formal trigger
National Response Framework

- **Intended Audience**
  - The Framework is written especially for elected and appointed officials, private-sector and non-governmental organization leaders, and emergency management practitioners.
  - Effective response hinges on well-trained leaders and responders who have invested in preparedness, developed engaged partnerships, and are able to achieve shared objectives.
  - The Framework also recognizes the important role of elected officials and their responsibilities to constituents during incidents, and on an ongoing basis regarding local preparedness capabilities and needs.
How the Framework is Organized

Doctrine, organization, roles and responsibilities, response actions and planning requirements that guide national response

Core Document

NRF Resource Center

Emergency Support Function Annexes
- Mechanisms to group and provide Federal resources and capabilities to support State and local responders

Support Annexes
- Essential supporting aspects of the Federal response common to all incidents

Incident Annexes
- Incident-specific applications of the Framework

Partner Guides
- Next level of detail in response actions tailored to the actionable entity

www.fema.gov/nrf
Federal Leadership and the Framework

- **Secretary of Homeland Security**: Principal Federal official for domestic incident management

- **FEMA Administrator**: Principal advisor to the President, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Homeland Security Council regarding emergency management

- **Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO)**: For Stafford Act events, the primary Federal representative to interface with the State Coordinating Officer and other State, tribal, and local response officials to determine most urgent needs and set objectives

- **Federal Departments and Agencies**: play primary, coordinating, and support roles based on their authorities and resources and the nature of the threat or incident
State & Local Leadership and the Framework

- **States** are sovereign entities, and the Governor has responsibility for public safety and welfare; States are the main players in coordinating resources and capabilities and obtaining support from other States and the Federal government
  - Governor
  - Homeland Security Advisor
  - Director State Emergency Management Agency
  - State Coordinating Officer

- **Local officials** have primary responsibility for community preparedness and response
  - Elected/Appointed Officials
  - Emergency Manager
  - Public Safety Officials

- **Individuals and Households** are key starting points for emergency preparedness and support community efforts
Private Sector & NGOs and the Framework

- **The Private Sector** supports community response, organizes business to ensure resiliency, and protects and restores critical infrastructure and commercial activity.

- **NGOs** perform vital service missions
  - Assist individuals who have special needs
  - Coordinate volunteers
  - Interface with government response officials at all levels
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- A consistent nationwide approach for all levels of government to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for and respond to domestic incidents
- Core set of concepts, principles and terminology for incident command and multi-agency coordination
- Requires all Federal Departments and Agencies to adopt
- Requires State and local NIMS compliance as a condition for Federal preparedness funds

Originally published in March 2004; revised and published in December 2008
NIMS Components

- Preparedness
  - A continuous cycle of engagement: Plan, train, equip, exercise & improve

- Communications and Information Management
  - Common operating picture; standards; interoperability, accessibility

- Resource Management
  - Describe, inventory, request, track, activate, dispatch, deactivate

- Command and Management
  - Incident Command System
  - Multi-agency Coordination Systems
  - Public Information Systems

- Ongoing Management and Maintenance
  - Revisions; scientific and technological support for incident management
Preparedness

National Preparedness Guidelines, September 2007

- National Preparedness Priorities:
  - Expand Regional Collaboration
  - Implement the NIMS and NRF
  - Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan
  - Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration
  - Strengthen Interoperable and Operable Communications
  - Strengthen CBRNE Detection, Response, and Decontamination
  - Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis
  - Strengthen Planning and Citizen Preparedness

“A NATION PREPARED with coordinated capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards in a way that balances risk with resources and need.”
Vision: Resilience

Culture of Preparedness
- Personal responsibility; self-reliance; assistance to others
- Integrated in daily lives for individuals, organizations, communities
- Develop community assets and practices for resilience
- Collaboration and accountability among all sectors and at all levels
- Ongoing, evolving process

Resilient Community:
- Ability to maintain or re-stabilize critical community-level infrastructure and functions in the event of a disaster, and return to a desired condition with enhanced resiliency and reduced vulnerability.
The Importance of Community

- Less than 1% of the U.S. population is an emergency responder.
- In 95 percent of all emergency situations, victims and bystanders are the first to respond.
- 85 percent of all critical infrastructure is privately owned.
- Government, business and communities rely on prepared citizens.
National Integration Center

- NRF Resource Center: www.fema.gov/nrf
- NIMS Resource Center: www.fema.gov/nims
- Contacts: fema-nims@dhs.gov
- Corey.gruber@dhs.gov, 202-646-3100