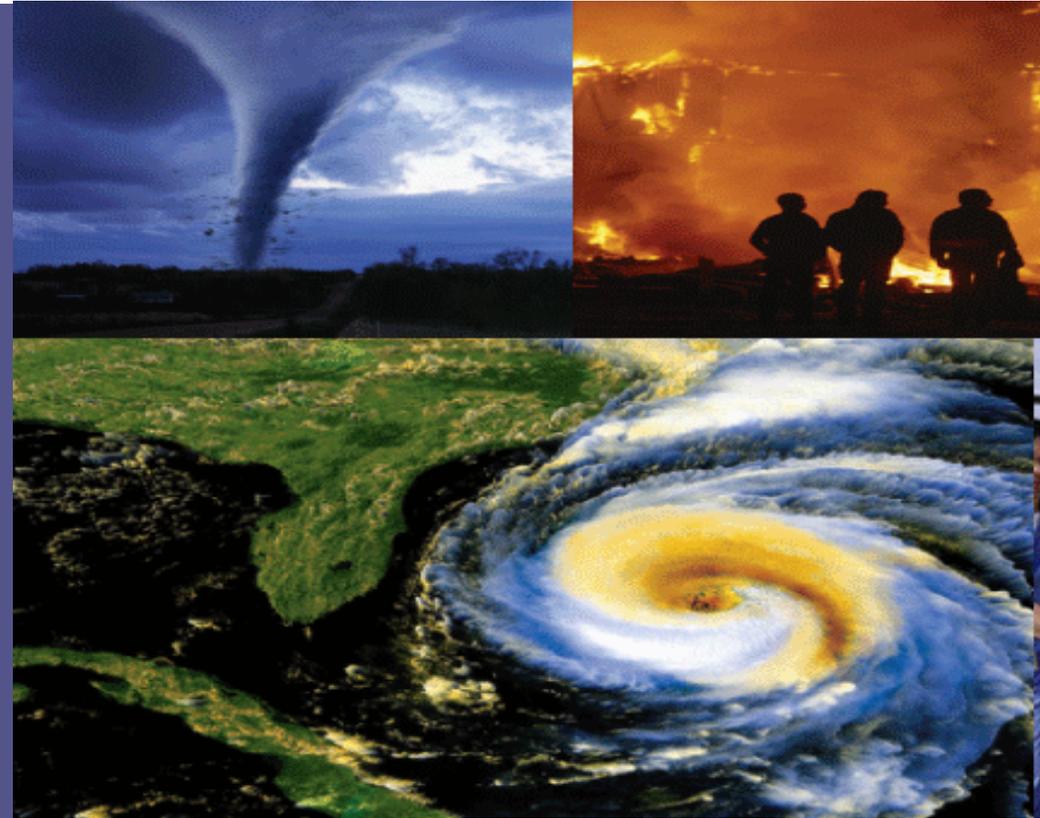


# The Federal Government Response After a Disaster

*Howard Pierpont*



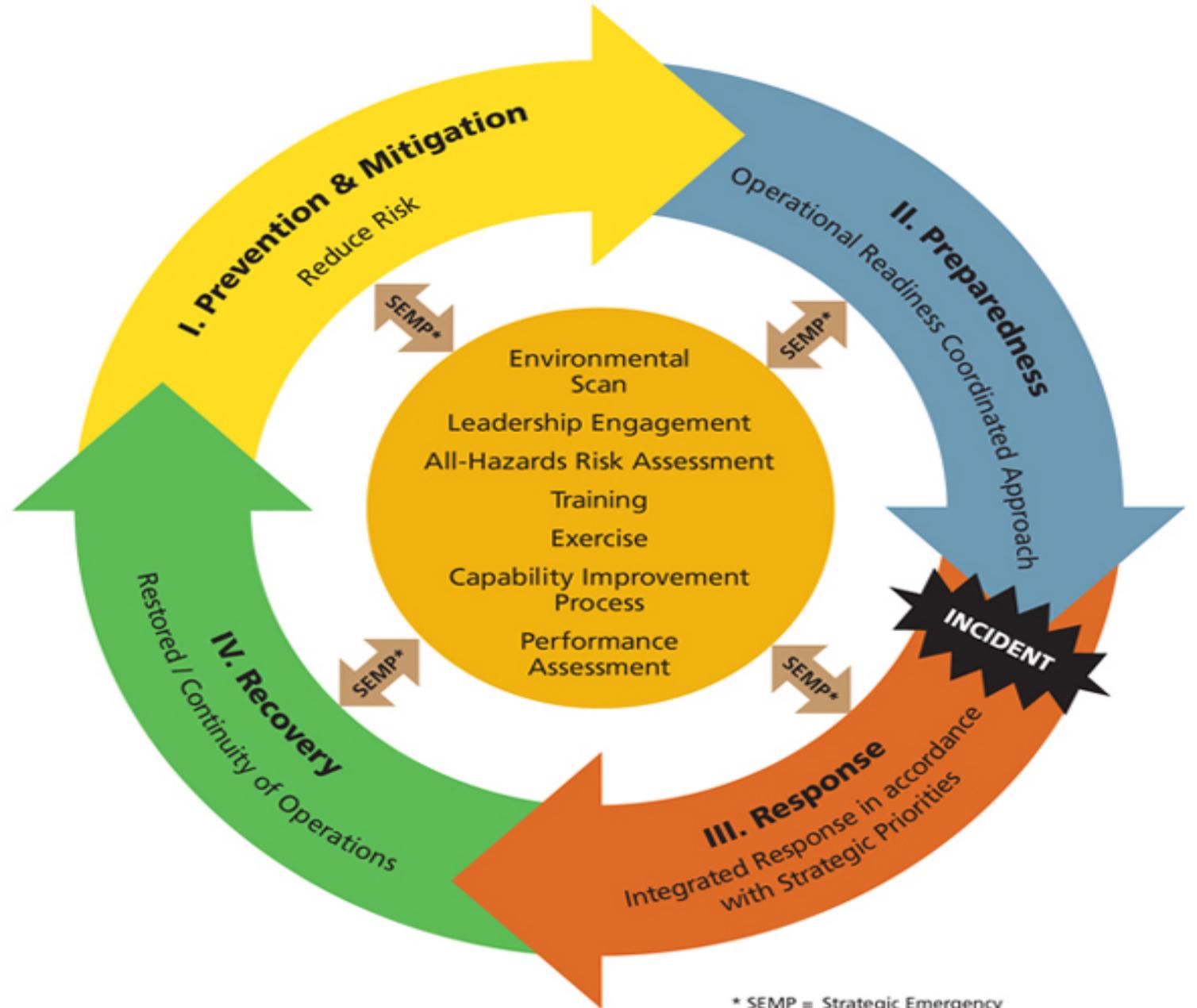
# Outline

- Phases of a disaster
- Types of disaster declarations
- How to maximize federal disaster assistance
- Group exercise



# Phases of a disaster

## Emergency Management Continuum



\* SEMP = Strategic Emergency Management Plan

## Phase I: Mitigation

- Involves steps to reduce vulnerability to disaster impacts
- Entails analyzing, reducing, and insuring against risk
- Requires addressing the hard choices, and investing in long-term community well-being





## Importance of mitigation

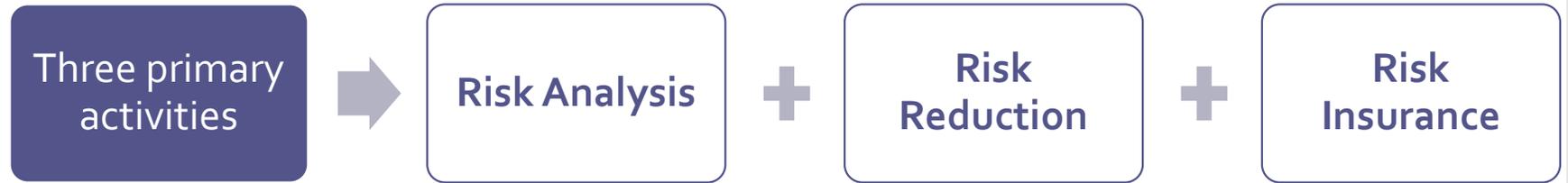
- The number of disasters is increasing but only 50% of events trigger Federal assistance
- Mitigation creates safer communities by reducing loss of life and property damage



- It allows communities to minimize post-disaster disruptions and recover more rapidly.

# FEMA's Mitigation Efforts

- Created to:
  - Help reduce the impact of events and dependence on taxpayers and Treasury for disaster relief
  - break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.
- Managed by Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA)



Source: FEMA, <http://www.fema.gov/what-mitigation>





# Mitigation Risk Reduction

- Targets existing structures and future construction, pre and post-disaster
- Achieved with regulations, local ordinances, land use, and building practices
- Resources – multiple federal programs



# Mitigation Flood Insurance

## Because floods are so damaging

- Encourages communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations
- Helps reduce the socio-economic impact of disasters
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides insurance
  - Promotes purchase and retention of Risk Insurance and National Flood Insurance.



## Case Study: Mitigation Funding in Cedar Rapids, IA

- Following the 2008 flooding, the city successfully lobbied the state legislature for the creation of the Flood Mitigation Program -- allows the recapture of sales tax growth to help fund flood protection projects
- Increment or growth in sales tax to be returned to a jurisdiction over a 20-year period with an annual cap of 70% of the growth or \$15 million dollars



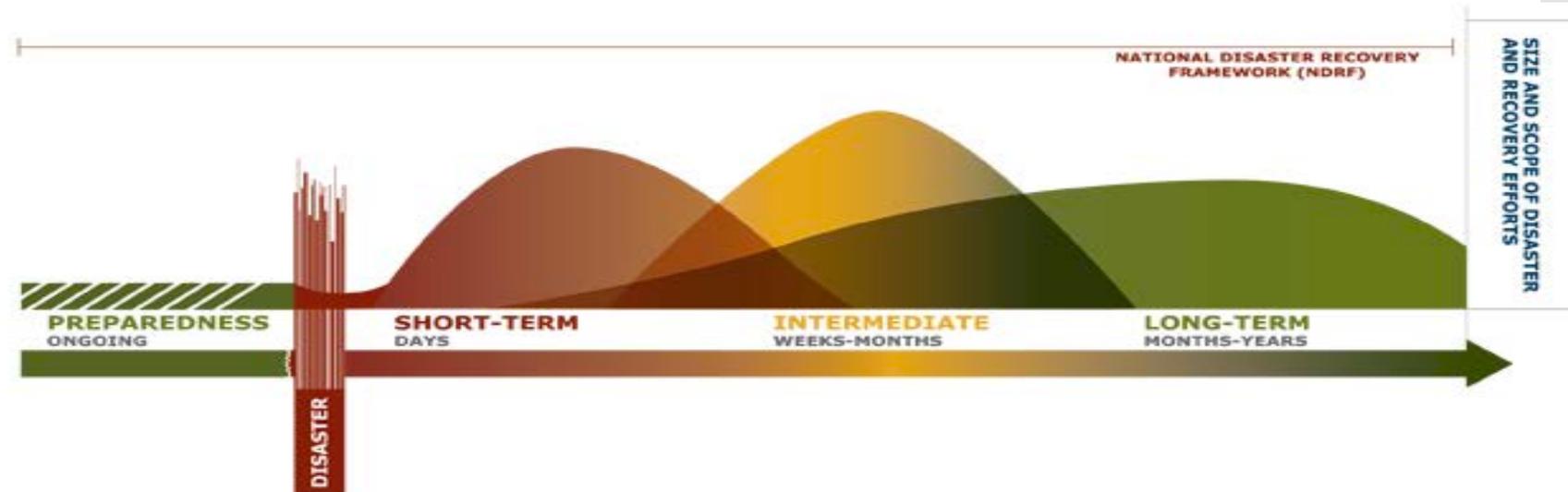
# Case Study: Lyons, CO

- Mountain town of 2,000 flooded in 2013 impacting over 150 businesses
- Infrastructure largely destroyed. Residents and businesses could not return for 2 months.
- In the weeks immediately after the flood, the first priority was to repair downed sewer and water lines.
- The town launched a small business recovery fund, and it turned on electricity first in a corridor where many shops are located.



# Recovery

- When the impacted region achieves degree of stability
- Businesses back up and running
- The recovery phase typically spans 2-3 periods
  - short-, intermediate- and long-term recovery





# Short-term Recovery

- Starts immediately after an incident
- Leadership starts organizing for long-term redevelopment
- Duration depends on severity of disaster



*City of Long Beach, MS*



## Intermediate Recovery

- Return of essential government and commercial services, critical infrastructure and individuals and families to a functional state



# Long-term Recovery

- Can take years or even decades to return to sense of normalcy
- Access to long-term financing is critical
- Recruiting and training new workers
- Need to find new customers and vendors



# Case Study: Manitou Springs, CO

- 2013 flooding inundated this mountain town of 5,245
- 3 months after the disaster, the 18-member Manitou Springs Public Works Department worked overtime to deal with urgent issues of flood clean up
- Team of federal agencies and IEDC experts conducted economic development assessment
- City worked with businesses, including creating a revolving loan fund to help recover





**Obama declares disaster for Red River flood**



this June 13, 2015, aerial photo shows flooding of the Red River in Alexandria, La. The Red River is still



# Disaster Declarations

# Types of Disaster Declarations

- Presidential (major)
- NOAA (fishery collapse)
- SBA (economic injury)
- USDA (crop failure, livestock loss, damage to farms and equipment)



# Major Disaster Declaration

## Declaration establishes eligibility for assistance

- Any state or federally-recognized tribe can make a request for federal assistance
  - Submitted to President through regional FEMA office
  - FEMA then provides a report to the President
- After declaration, agencies employ national response framework (NRF) and national disaster recovery framework (NDRF)

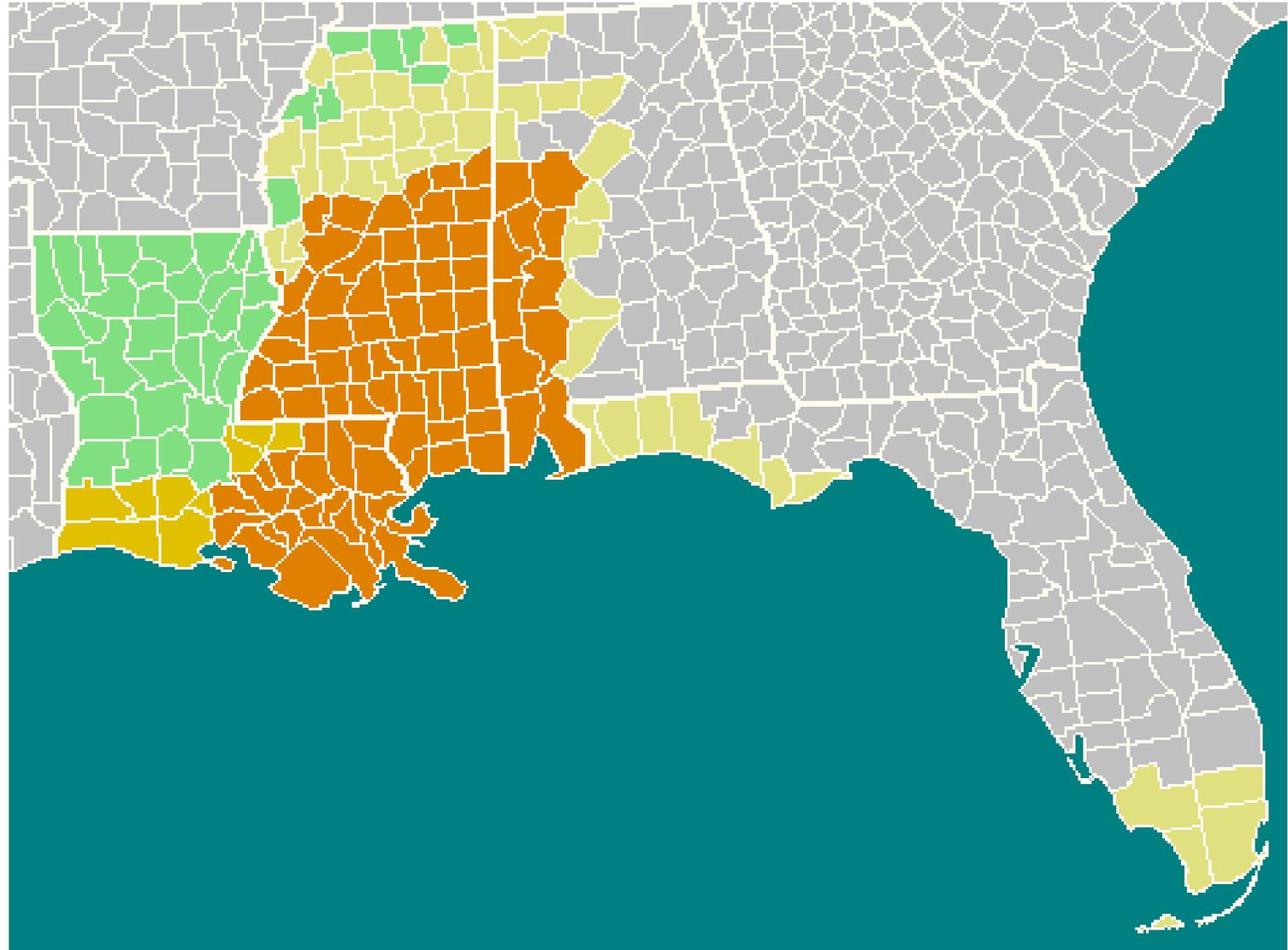


# Presidential Declarations Stafford Act

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)- Funds for:
  - Emergency Management
  - Fire Management Assistance
  - Presidential Declarations
- Stafford Act
  - Individual Assistance
  - Public Assistance
  - Hazard Mitigation



# Disaster declarations post-Katrina



*Federal disaster areas: all counties in Mississippi and Louisiana, 22 counties in western Alabama, and 11 in Florida.*



# Presidential Declarations Stafford Act (Cont)

- State and local emergency management offices are the primary liaison for Stafford Act funds
  - You should build strong relationships with these offices for economic recovery





# National Response Framework



# National Disaster Recovery Framework

- Established after 9/11
- Guide to ensure coordination and recovery planning at all levels of government
- Defines leadership roles and responsibilities

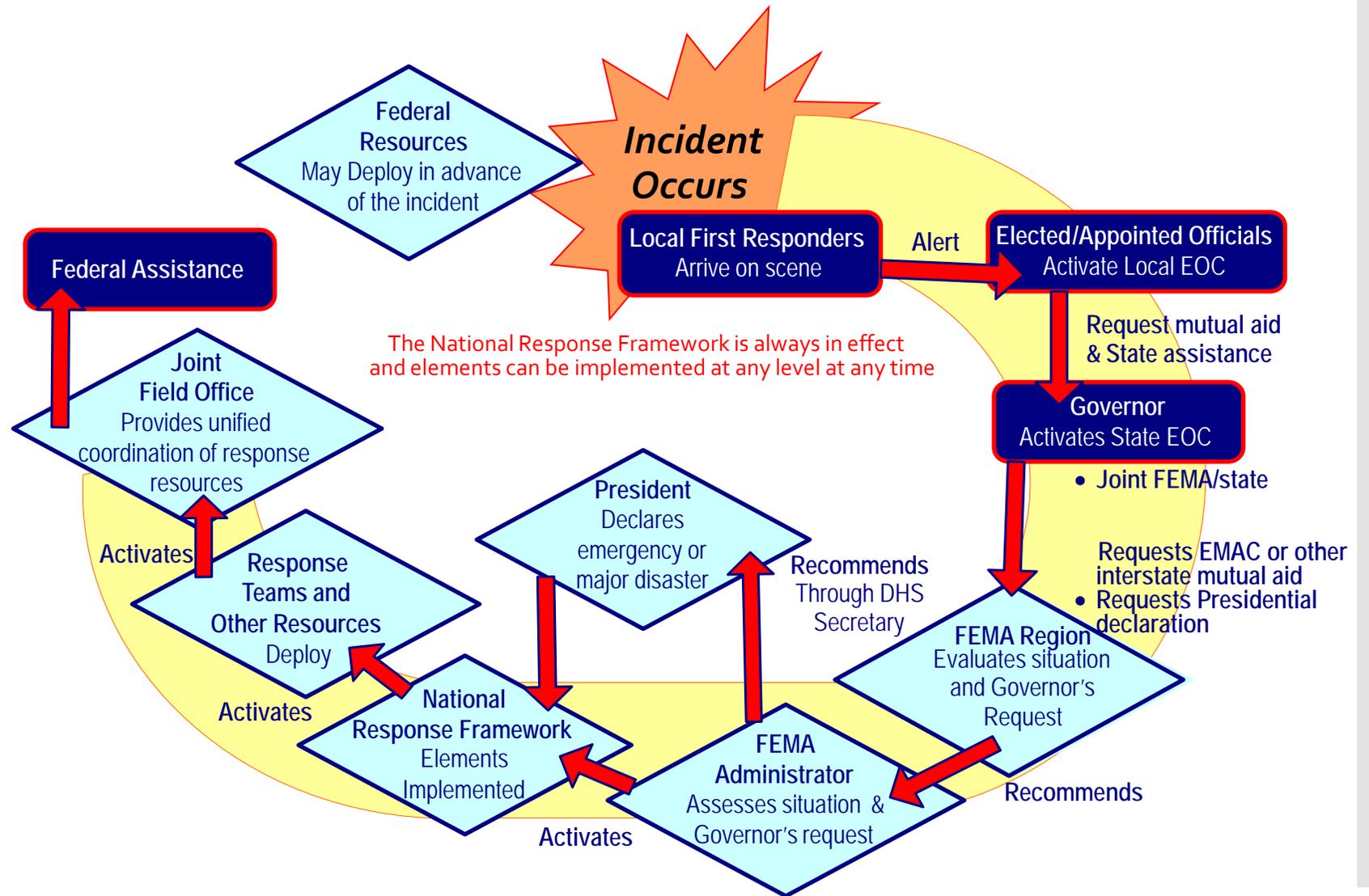


# Focus of the National Response Framework (NRF)

- Need to save lives
- Protection of property
- Stabilizing the incident
- Restoring basic services
- Ensuring a safe and secure environment



# How it works



## Why you should seek assistance

- Funding recovery for major disasters is beyond capability of insurance, nonprofits, states
- States and localities have chief responsibility for recovery
  - Supplemented by federal government
- Many federal funding programs
  - Varied eligibility and reporting requirements



# Federal Assistance

- Federal funds come with significant recipient obligations
  - Understand and anticipate these requirements
- Applications can be complex, and confusing



# Outreach and Advocacy

## Your role as community leaders:

- Proactive relationship-building with regional, state, federal emergency managers and at regional and state offices of federal agencies
- Learn about capabilities before you need them
- Communicate likely needs
- Appoint a specific point of contact in your community in event of a disaster



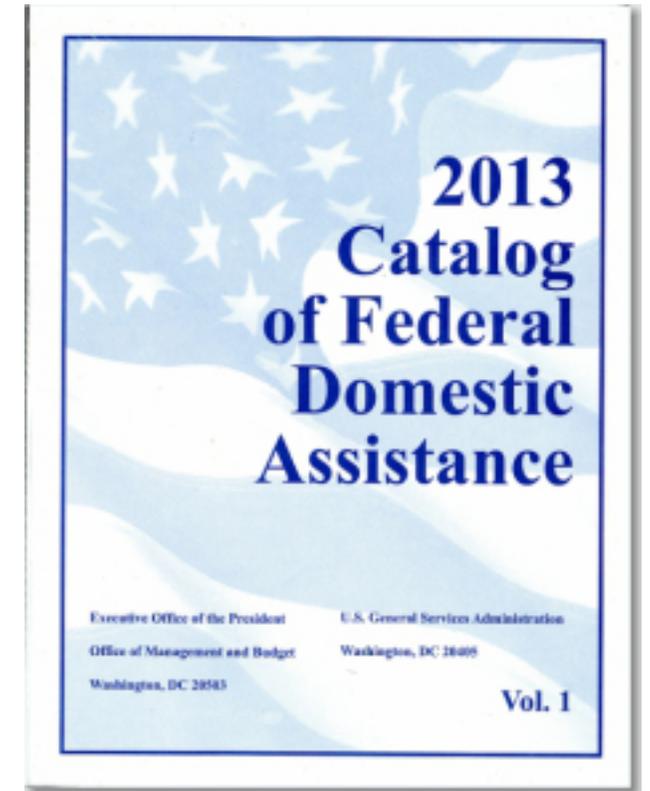
# Finding Federal Grants

- Knowing missions, goals, and restrictions of federal agencies improves applications
- Sources for federal grants:
  - Federal Register Federal Funding Opportunity
  - Grants.gov
  - Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)



# Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

- CFDA entries list grants from 57 federal agencies
- Eligible organizations (e.g. states, localities, tribal governments, or nonprofits)
- Uses for grant funds
- Application review process
- Grantee expectations



# Applying for Funds

- Review the Federal Register
- Research if additional funds have become available
- Fully download the application
- Carefully review criteria
- Submit complete applications with all required forms
- Guides to grant proposals at [CFDA.gov](http://CFDA.gov)



# Federal Funds and Cost Sharing

- Funding from federal government usually 50-80% of project
- Find support from other community partners or contribute own funds
- Some agencies allow cash and in-kind matching from public and private sector



# Potential Federal Partners for Economic Recovery

- Homeland Security/FEMA
- **Commerce/EDA** (lead)
- **Delta Regional Authority**
- SBA
- USDA
- HUD
- DOL
- Treasury
- Interior
- EPA
- HHS
- FDIC



# Where you can get disaster relief funding

- FEMA administers funds for:
  - Mass care
  - Infrastructure repairs
  - Debris clearing
  - Aid for uninsured families
  - Mitigation of future disaster effects



# Packaging Federal Funds

- Typically, organizations need to combine funding from federal, public, and private sources
- Beware Duplication of Benefits (DOB)



# Example of how to package federal funds from multiple agencies

- Jefferson (La.) Economic Development Corporation obtained funds from EDA and HUD's CDBG-DR for a \$50M Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)
- RLF provided critical assistance in form of loans and grants for small businesses after Katrina



# Waivers

- Relax grant requirements
- Give relief to disaster-affected communities
- Generally available for agency regulations (c.f. federal law)



# Waivers Examples: HUD

- Annual Performance Review Reporting Requirement
- Citizen Participation Requirement
- Use of Sub-Recipients
- Program Income Requirements
- Eligibility — Housing Related



# Waivers Examples: EDA & SBA

- **Economic Development Administration**
  - Matching Share Requirements and Investment Rates
  - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Requirement
- **SBA**
  - Timeline Requirement for SBA Loan Increase
  - Maximum Amount Requirement for Physical Disaster and Economic Injury Business Loans
  - Federal Debt Collection Requirement



# Waivers Examples: ETA & USDA

- **ETA**
  - 6-month Limit on Employment for Disaster NEG Participants
- **USDA**
  - Rural Area Definition Requirement
  - Limitation on Grant Amounts
  - Matching Funds Requirement for Community Facilities Program
  - Requirements for Renewable Energy Systems/Energy Efficiency Improvements
  - Requirements for Value-Added Producer Grants



More on  
Waivers

*Federal Disaster Recovery Funding: Minimizing Roadblocks to Maximize Resources* at:  
[http://www.iedconline.org/clientuploads/Downloads/IEDC\\_Minimizing\\_Roadblocks.pdf](http://www.iedconline.org/clientuploads/Downloads/IEDC_Minimizing_Roadblocks.pdf)



# Waiver Example: Building back better after a disaster

## Best practice example:

- Gulfport, Mississippi was granted waivers after Katrina of HUD CDBG-DR
- Allowed \$600M expansion of Port of Gulfport - increases capacity for new businesses



# Compliance Monitoring: make sure it's in place

- In place to minimize mismanagement of public dollars
- Critical to monitor compliance with federal regulations
- Avoid audits or repayment of funds
- Plan your grant application with monitoring in place
- Many agencies' public compliance and monitoring manuals online



Need more  
help?



- Mission Scoping Assessment
  - Will help you to identify economic recovery needs
- Recovery Support Strategy
  - Identify federal resources for economic recovery
  - Implement

More info on how to get help:  
<http://eda.gov/about/disaster-recovery.htm>



# Group exercise

## Questions:

1. What are some vulnerabilities in your community or region for either natural or manmade disasters?
2. Have you established who will take the lead in your community in terms of restoring the economy?
3. What has your experience been in working with federal resources after a disaster?