Community Lifelines

Essential Connections: Within the Emergency Support Functions

Lifelines function as vital cross-sector coordination nodes that effectively stabilize a community after a disaster.

Disaster Recovery Reform Act

The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA) (P.L. 115-524) is a game changing piece of legislation that has the opportunity to change the landscape of emergency management:

- The DRRA represents the most comprehensive emergency management reform in over a decade.
- There are more than 50 provisions in the DRRA relating to the full spectrum of FEMA’s programs, and we are working quickly and thoughtfully to implement these reforms.
- As an example of the impact of this legislation:
  - Management costs provisions increase funding to help states, communities, and tribes build capabilities.
  - Pre-disaster competitive grant program based on 6% of the previous year’s disaster costs.
  - Increase the number of activities that can be funded through wildland mitigation.
  - Use mitigation funds after certain wildland disasters.
- DRRA implementation is overseen and guided by a cross-agency policy coordination group (PCG). The PCG:
  - Makes recommendations to the Administrator or other accountable executive;
  - Guides the staff-level Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) in the development of regulation, policy, and other communications that will achieve outcomes in the best interests of the Agency and the stakeholders it serves; and
  - Decides the relative priority and timeline of DRRA regulation, policy, and communications initiatives.
- Some provisions require us to adopt policies based on statutory deadlines. We are moving quickly on those.
- Other provisions will include outreach and engagement with our partners to gather input and suggestions.

Recommendations

Lead the way in your community

- Support stronger building codes in your communities to build resilience.
- Develop a disaster housing plan with temporary housing options that can be quickly implemented after disasters.
- Mitigate pre-disaster to better protect public and private infrastructure investments.
- Build emergency management capabilities and create long-term recovery teams for pre-disaster recovery planning.
- Establish & fund a disaster rainy day account for Individual and Public Assistance mission, and for non-Stafford Act disasters.
- Develop disaster cost recovery plans.