

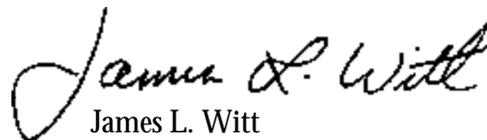
Foreword

The Federal Response Plan (FRP) outlines how the Federal Government implements the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, to assist State and local governments when a major disaster or emergency overwhelms their ability to respond effectively to save lives; protect public health, safety, and property; and restore their communities. The FRP describes the policies, planning assumptions, concept of operations, response and recovery actions, and responsibilities of 27 Federal departments and agencies, including the American Red Cross, that guide Federal operations following Presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

The FRP has proved to be an effective framework for coordinating delivery of Federal disaster assistance to State and local governments. Since it was issued in 1992, Federal agencies have demonstrated that they can work together to achieve the common goal of efficient, timely, and consistent disaster response and recovery.

This second edition of the FRP incorporates the 11 changes published to the plan since 1992, ensures consistency with current policy guidance, integrates recovery and mitigation functions into the response structure, and describes relationships to other emergency operations plans. It includes four new support annexes (Community Relations, Donations Management, Logistics Management, and Occupational Safety and Health) and two new appendices (FRP Changes and Revision, and Overview of a Disaster Operation).

The FRP will continue to evolve, reflecting lessons learned from actual experience in disasters and ongoing Federal agency planning, training, and exercise activities. I am confident that it will serve as a basis for improving coordination and strengthening relationships among all emergency management partners — Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, voluntary disaster relief organizations, and the private sector — as we work together to meet basic human needs and restore essential government services after a disaster. This enhanced partnership, combined with the establishment of disaster-resistant communities, should reduce human suffering and decrease costly damages to property.



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