



FORUM



**Building a better
working world**

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Emergency Management: Preparedness and Resiliency

The United States experienced a proliferation of catastrophic events last year. These included record rainfalls with significant flooding, widespread tornadoes, massive wildfires and major hurricanes. The magnitude and financial impact of these and other catastrophic events are constant reminders of the need for disaster preparedness across all facets of county government. Investments in resilience and preparedness for natural hazards strengthen the places we live, learn, work and come together at communities. Long-term physical infrastructure resilience requires upfront capital investments to realize future savings in the form of reduced losses, lower insurance costs and enhanced market value.

EY assists governmental, nonprofit and corporate entities with emergency preparedness, crisis response and disaster recovery needs. We combine our experience and diverse backgrounds in emergency management with our financial and accounting acumen to help our clients become more operationally and financial resilient. We want to stimulate more aspirational conversations about the future, leading communities to bigger, more ambitious conclusions which lead to action.

Managing Disasters

Counties should comprehensively assess their resilience to a variety of disasters long before a natural or man-made disaster strikes. Three ways to do this are by determining the county's value chain with regard to disaster response, analyzing its enterprise resilience to disaster and assessing the interdependency needs of county services. Additionally, counties must create a variety of plans, including strategic, mitigation, operational, community engagement and short- and long-term recovery plans. It is important to remember the four Cs of organizational culture: communicate, cooperate, coordinate and co-locate.

EY can assist counties with preparedness measures by:

- Developing holistic emergency management programs
- Ensuring compliance with new and evolving emergency management policy and guidance
- Building business continuity, recovery and other plans
- Training and holding exercises for staff and residents

Post-disaster response is also critical. Counties need to make sure they take the proper steps at the proper time, and keep all paperwork organized and accessible.

EY can help post-disaster by:

- Supporting counties with procurement, vendor, and contract management
- Completing post disaster recovery services
- Assisting with commercial property insurance claims
- Supporting counties through the FEMA Public Assistance and mitigation grant process

**Protect Your Residents, Infrastructure & Stakeholders.
Protect Your Reputation. Protect Your Bottom Line.**



Enterprise Resilience. How do you work towards county-wide resilience that cuts across departmental silos? Have you identified your hazards, stakeholders and steps to be prepared in addressing the consequences of all hazards?



Gap Assessment. Have you conducted a gap assessment looking at your current preparedness and resiliency status? Have you established leading practices and provided specific suggestions for areas of additional discussion and potential investment/improvement?



Planning for Pre- and Post- Disaster Resiliency. Does your County have a compliance management program for federal grants and other assistance programs? Have you conducted employee, community and public outreach? Have you planned for possible mitigation after the disaster?



Short and Long-Term Recovery and Resiliency. Does your County have a thoroughly contemplated recovery plan addressing time sensitive short-term functions to minimize injury, loss of life and property? Do you have recovery planning support for the long term? How do you address long term economic recovery embracing an enterprise mind set?



Financial Resiliency: Has your County begun the process to address the rising costs of preparedness and resilience and the associated extreme-weather-related losses and costs in lives, property, and natural resources?
