

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 25 Federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross, that guide Federal operations following a Presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

The FRP has proven 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 interim edition of the FRP reflects the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This replaces the previous issuance of the FRP in April 1999. It is intended for use pending a thorough review and update by DHS, at which time a new edition of the FRP will be issued.