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Whats Inside:

Month in Disaster History.....	Pg. 1
Understanding Change with FEMA.....	Pg. 1
EM365 Ai New Enhancements.....	Pg. 3
Disaster Resource Center.....	Pg. 6
Disaster Policy & Research.....	Pg. 7
Preparedness Best Practices.....	Pg. 8
Responses Best Practices.....	Pg. 9
Study: Modeling Evacuation Behavior.....	Pg. 9
Disaster Recovery Best Practices.....	Pg. 10
Maximize Disaster Recovery Funds.....	Pg. 10
Mitigation Best Practices.....	Pg. 11
FEMA Review Council & FEMA Bills.....	Pg. 12
Disaster News.....	Pg. 13
Industry Innovations.....	Pg. 14
EM Innovations in Work.....	Pg. 15
Building a More Resilient Future.....	Pg. 18
Expertise: Disaster Recovery.....	Pg. 19

This Month in Disaster History

The Flood of the Century

The 1997 Red River Flood, often called the “Flood of the Century,” remains one of the most significant hydrologic events in the modern history of the Red River Valley, which spans North Dakota, Minnesota, and southern Manitoba. Scientifically, the disaster resulted from a rare convergence of meteorological and topographic factors. A wet autumn in 1996 saturated the region’s heavy clay soils, followed by one of the harshest winters on record that produced a deep snowpack with unusually high moisture content. Persistent subzero temperatures kept the ground frozen, while spring blizzards added more snow before a rapid thaw. The Red River of the North flows northward across the exceptionally flat former bed of glacial Lake Agassiz, creating ideal conditions for ice jams, backwater effects, and slow drainage. These dynamics produced record crests, with the river reaching 54.11 feet in Grand Forks–East Grand Forks—more than five feet above the National Weather Service’s initial 49-foot prediction based on the 1979 record. This event surpassed most 20th-century floods, echoing earlier snowmelt-driven disasters in...

Continued on Page 2

Understanding Change with FEMA

How Organizational Change Models & Theory Can Provide Clarity to the Evolving Changes with FEMA

Understanding organizational change models and their relevance to the evolving changes with FEMA and the United States’ emergency management system can provide much needed clarity during uncertain times. Organizational change models provide structured frameworks for managing transitions in complex systems, such as government agencies dealing with disasters. Kurt Lewin’s three-stage model—unfreezing (preparing for change by challenging the status quo), changing (implementing new processes), and refreezing (stabilizing the changes)—emphasizes the need for psychological and structural readiness in organizations. The McKinsey 7-S framework assesses alignment across seven interconnected elements: strategy, structure, systems, shared values, style, staff, and skills, ensuring holistic change in bureaucratic environments like federal agencies. Meanwhile, the ADKAR model focuses on individual adoption through Awareness, Desire, Knowledge, Ability, and Reinforcement, making it particularly useful for crisis-driven...

Continued on Page 4

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Disaster History

Continued...

The Flood of the Century: The 1997 Red River Flooding

Continued

in 1826, 1897, 1950, and 1979 that similarly overwhelmed the valley's low-gradient, northward-flowing system.

The human and economic impacts of the 1997 flood were profound. In Grand Forks and East Grand Forks alone, more than 50,000 residents—the largest pre-Katrina U.S. disaster evacuation—were forced from their homes as floodwaters surged miles inland, inundating roughly 75 percent of Grand Forks. A major downtown fire, fueled by ruptured gas lines and inaccessible to firefighters, destroyed 11 buildings and dozens of apartments. Total regional damages exceeded \$3.5 billion (U.S.), with additional hundreds of millions in Manitoba, while infrastructure, homes, and farmland across more than 2,200 square miles were devastated. Seventeen deaths in North Dakota were linked to the preceding winter storms and flood conditions. From a disaster sociology perspective, the event highlighted both community cohesion and vulnerabilities, including heightened domestic violence and long-term psychological stress among lower-income households.



Grand Forks after a levee overtopped and Grand Forks was evacuated

[View the 1997 Red River Flood ArcGIS Story Maps](#)

In response, the region implemented aggressive structural and non-structural mitigation measures funded largely through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Grand Forks and East Grand Forks constructed a \$409 million levee and floodwall system, acquired and removed over 800 flood-prone properties, and transformed the cleared floodplain into the Greater Grand Forks Greenway—parks, trails, and open space that now absorb floodwaters naturally. Fargo–Moorhead reinforced levees and initiated the massive Metro Flood Diversion Project, a 30-mile channel with embankments and control structures nearing substantial completion by fall 2026. Manitoba expanded and upgraded the Red River Floodway ("Duff's Ditch") and made emergency dikes permanent. Improved forecasting tools, inter-jurisdictional coordination via the International Joint Commission, and updated emergency plans further strengthened resilience.

Contemporary lessons from 1997 underscore core principles in disaster science and emergency management. Accurate forecasting and transparent communication of uncertainty are essential; initial under-predictions in Grand Forks eroded public trust and complicated decision-making, illustrating how forecast responsibility must be shared among scientists, officials, and communities. Disaster sociologist perspectives emphasize that strong social capital and community-based preparedness dramatically improve response and recovery outcomes, as seen in the valley's volunteer sandbagging efforts and mutual aid networks. Emergency management professionals today should prioritize vulnerability reduction through non-structural strategies (property buyouts, land-use zoning) alongside engineered solutions, integrate climate-change projections into planning, and foster genuine public involvement to build long-term resilience rather than reactive protection alone.

If an identical meteorological and hydrologic event struck today, impacts would be dramatically reduced. Existing levees, greenways, and diversion infrastructure in Grand Forks and Winnipeg would contain or divert waters that overwhelmed 1997 defenses, while Fargo's nearing-completion diversion project would protect the metro area from catastrophic inundation. Better real-time...

Continued on Page 4

The Value of Preparedness
A Commitment to a Culture of Preparedness



[Learn More About Our Disaster Preparedness Services](#)



Announcing: Odysseus EM365 Ai

Establishing Ai Community Disaster Intelligence



Odysseus EM365 Ai Enhancements

The Odysseus EM365 platform, developed by Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC), integrates a governed AI assistant designed to enhance emergency management practices while ensuring outputs are drawn exclusively from vetted, jurisdiction-specific sources such as regulatory databases, peer-reviewed research, and operational guidance. The AI operates within a controlled knowledge environment, avoiding unverified open internet data to maintain accuracy, compliance, and professional defensibility. By handling up to 90% of analytical and procedural tasks, it serves as a force multiplier for practitioners, supporting everything from plan customization to risk analysis, while human experts provide the critical 10% of judgment and oversight. Built on over two decades of ISC's expertise across 7,000+ jurisdictions, EM365 transforms routine workflows into efficient, resilient processes that preserve institutional knowledge and mitigate liability risks in high-stakes scenarios.

The Odysseus EM365 Ai builds upon the Community Vulnerability, Risk, and Resiliency (CVR2) model, a patent-pending, evidence-based framework that has served as the industry's leading risk assessment methodologies for the past 15 years. The CVR2's 4,500 evidence-based indicators and measurements of community vulnerability, risk, and resilience serve as a foundational framework for generating reliable community disaster intelligence.

Additionally, the EM365 Ai framework is aligned with major federal and state regulatory requirements, evidence-based best practices, and industry standards in emergency management—including EMAP (ANSI/EMAP 5-2022), NFPA (e.g., 1600 and 1660), NWS StormReady, and ISO standards (e.g., 22320:2018)—to ensure all programmatic plans, strategies, assessments, and outputs are compliant and defensible. This generates tailored, auditable outputs that streamline accreditation processes, reduce liability risks, and support proactive alignment with evolving regulations, enhancing programmatic integrity and operational effectiveness across jurisdictions.

The EM365 Ai governed environment systematically configures the evidence-based knowledge and compliance standards into a system-of-systems architecture, providing a single platform that not only provides best-in-class technology but also a force multiplier that drives efficiencies and alleviates administrative burden. By integrating this robust analytical foundation into the EM365 platform's governed AI environment, the system ensures that AI-generated outputs are not only data-driven and jurisdictionally tailored but also scientifically defensible, enabling emergency managers to make informed decisions that enhance preparedness, response effectiveness, and long-term community resilience while minimizing reliance on unverified external sources.



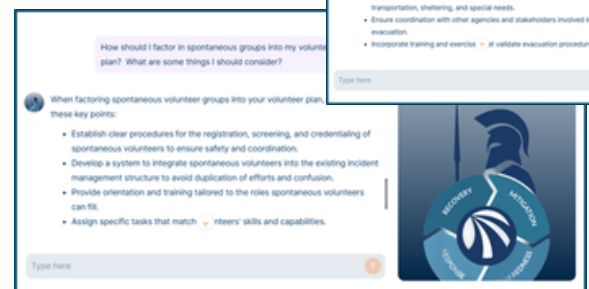
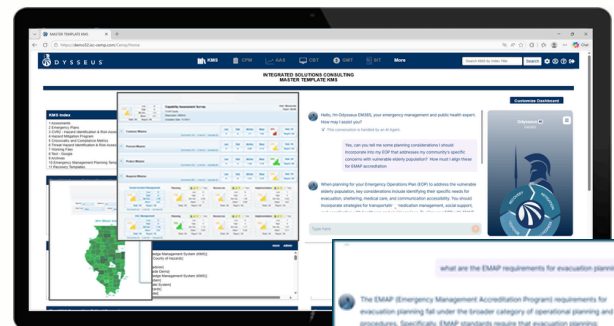
D Y S S E U S™

EM365-Ai

The EM365 Ai assistant empowers local emergency managers by ensuring outputs are drawn exclusively from a library of 50,000 vetted, jurisdiction-specific sources, regulatory databases, peer-reviewed research, documented best practices and operational guidance.

#1 EM Ai Solution

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Understanding Change with FEMA

Continued...

How Organizational Change Models Provide Clarity with the Future

Continued

transformations and ideal for fostering adoption in dynamic teams. Complementing these, John Kotter's 8-step model provides a sequential approach: creating urgency, building a guiding coalition, forming a vision, enlisting supporters, removing barriers, generating wins, accelerating momentum, and anchoring changes, emphasizing leadership and momentum in large-scale initiatives. These models are highly relevant to contemporary reforms in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. emergency management system. As of 2025, proposed changes under the FEMA Act of 2025 aim to restore FEMA as an independent cabinet-level agency, streamline disaster response and recovery programs, emphasize mitigation through risk-weighted funding, and shift greater responsibilities to states and localities. Influences from Project 2025 and Trump administration policies further advocate for staff reductions, privatization of certain functions, and reduced federal involvement, reflecting a broader push toward decentralization amid increasing disaster frequency due to climate change.

When applying these models to FEMA's transformations, they illuminate pathways for effective federal adaptation. Lewin's unfreezing aligns with legislative pushes to separate FEMA from DHS, disrupting silos for nimbler operations. McKinsey's 7-S calls for realigning strategy (mitigation focus) with structure (independence) and staff (lean staffing), while safeguarding shared values like equitable aid. ADKAR supports employee engagement by building awareness of decentralization benefits and delivering training for streamlined processes.

Kotter's model fits seamlessly, starting with urgency around disaster escalation to form a coalition of stakeholders, craft a vision for resilient infrastructure, and celebrate early wins like pre-approved recovery projects, ultimately anchoring reforms through policy integration. Together, these frameworks highlight the risks of uncoordinated changes, such as funding shortfalls or coordination lapses, while promoting incentives for resilient building codes and utilities.

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Diagram: McKinsey's 7-S Framework Organizational Change Model

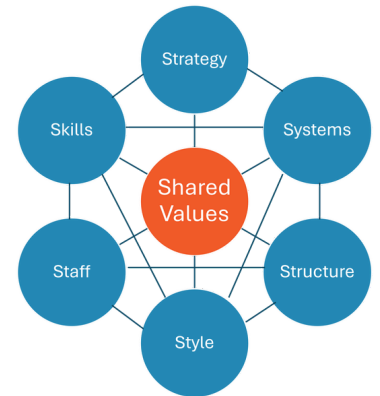


Diagram: ADKAR Model for Change Management



Diagram: Lewin's Change Management Model

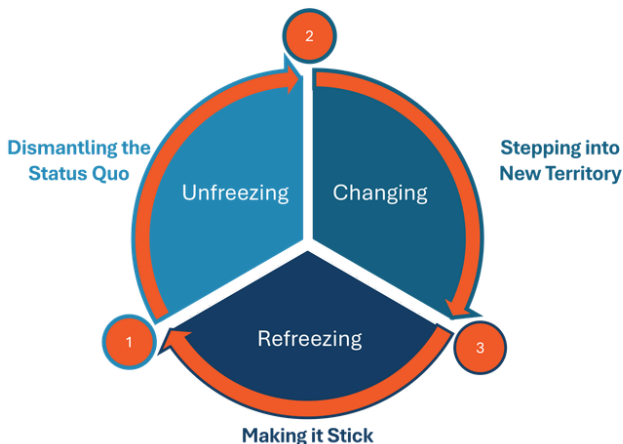
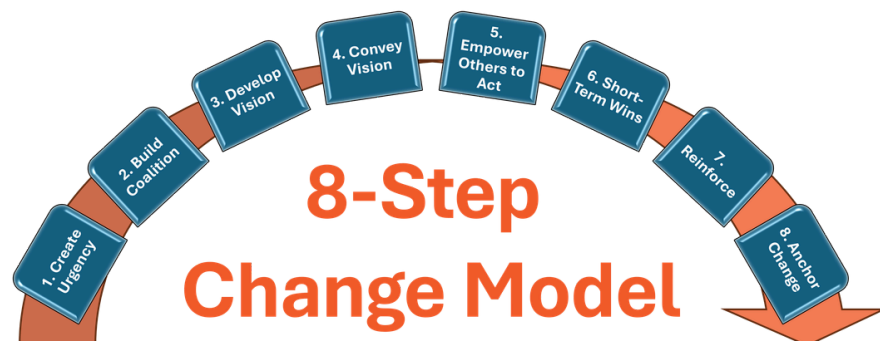


Diagram: Kotter's 8-Step Change Model



Disaster History & Ungoverned Ai Liabilities

Continued

1997 Red River Flood

Continued

data, advanced warning systems, and rehearsed evacuation plans would minimize loss of life and property; post-1997 floods in 2006, 2009, and 2011 already demonstrated sharply lower damages (e.g., North Dakota infrastructure costs fell from \$557 million in 1997 to \$9.6 million in 2006 despite high river levels). Ongoing valley-wide efforts—wetland restoration, updated floodplain mapping, and cross-border coordination—continue to translate 1997 lessons into proactive risk reduction.

Ultimately, the 1997 Red River Flood offers enduring guidance for emergency management communities worldwide: disasters are not solely natural but are shaped by human decisions on land use, forecasting, and equity. By blending hydrologic science with sociological insights on vulnerability and resilience, and by committing to both structural hardening and community empowerment, the Red River Valley has transformed a historic catastrophe into a model of adaptive flood-risk management that continues to evolve amid changing climate realities.

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FEMA – Organizational Change Models

Continued

State emergency management agencies face pivotal considerations in adapting to FEMA's shifts toward greater autonomy and leaner federal aid. Lewin's model urges states to unfreeze reliance on Washington by auditing internal capacities in planning. McKinsey's lens prompts alignment of systems (e.g., new grant integrations) and skills (expanded recovery training). ADKAR fosters state-level desire for localized speed via targeted reinforcement like simulations. Kotter's steps guide states in creating urgency through data on disaster trends, assembling cross-agency coalitions for visioning, and removing barriers like regulatory hurdles to enlist broader support, ensuring short-term wins in inter-state pacts. Challenges include bridging potential federal budget gaps, so states must prioritize contingency funds, collaborative networks, and scalable disaster loan management to sustain operations without federal crutches.

Local governments, schools, universities, and NGOs must similarly emphasize self-sufficiency and synergy with federal pivots. Lewin's changing phase involves revising protocols for FEMA's faster aid, such as automated approvals. McKinsey stresses harmonizing leadership styles and community values with mitigation goals, including cybersecurity for infrastructure. ADKAR aids in raising awareness of resilience mandates—like climate-adaptive campus designs—and reinforcing via NGO drills. Kotter's framework encourages locals to build urgency around vulnerabilities, form grassroots coalitions with educators and nonprofits, envision integrated plans, and accelerate by clearing bureaucratic obstacles, generating wins through community-led pilots. For NGOs, this means scaling staff for equity-focused gap-filling, while schools and universities integrate change into curricula, ensuring vulnerable groups aren't sidelined in transitions.

Ultimately, these models profoundly shape disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation in the U.S. framework. Preparedness gains from Lewin's refreezing via institutionalized tools like the updated National Incident Management System. Response leverages McKinsey's alignment for swift, lean deployments, though staff reductions may test federal-local links. Recovery advances through ADKAR's reinforcement of state-led efforts and revolving funds. Kotter's model amplifies mitigation by sustaining acceleration in preventive investments, from urgency-driven visions to anchored policies reducing long-term costs. Holistically, they mitigate inequities but demand vigilant equity checks to prevent uneven resource flows.

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Disaster Resource Center

Free Tool Kits & Resources

Whether you are dealing with a declared disaster or need program guidance, ISC is there to help you.

Hazard-Specific Tool Kits



A graphic for Hurricane Toolkits featuring a red circular icon with a white hammer and wrench crossed. The background shows a pile of debris from a destroyed building. The text reads: "Hurricane Toolkits" and "Resources to help you prepare, respond, and recover!" A blue hand icon is at the bottom right.

Disaster Resource Center



A graphic for the Disaster Resource Center with a dark background. It features a circular diagram with four segments: PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, MITIGATION, and RECOVERY. The text reads: "DISASTER RESOURCE CENTER" and "Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, Recovery." The ISC logo and name are at the bottom. A blue hand icon is at the bottom right.

Best Practices Library



A graphic for the Best Practices Library. The title is "Industry Best Practices" and the article title is "Don't Let Disaster Strike Twice: Navigating the Complex World of Post-Disaster Funding". It includes a photo of a road with debris and a circular portrait of a man. A blue hand icon is at the bottom right.

On-Call Expert Support



A graphic for On-Call Expert Support featuring a circular diagram with four segments: RECOVERY, MITIGATION, PREPAREDNESS, and RESPONSE. The ISC logo is in the center. A blue hand icon is at the bottom right.

Disaster Policy & Research

March 2026

News & Policy

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 INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

Preparedness Best Practice: Special Event Crisis Preparedness



Across the nation, communities and venue owners are responsible for managing thousands of special events for sporting events, festivals, concerts, conventions, tourist attractions, and other public and

private mass gatherings. These events not only draw hundreds of thousands of people into a community or specific venue, magnifying the potential of a crisis or the consequences of a natural emergency or disease outbreak, but some events may be a potential target for terrorism or civil unrest.

Whether these events are designated as a National Special Security Event, past special event crises have demonstrated that communities and venue owners must be well prepared. Pre-incident emergency planning and crisis management strategies will help manage the crisis response operations and identify strategies to successfully manage communication, reputational risk, and recovery.

Special Event Crisis and Emergency Incidents are on the Rise

Large public and private special events are on the rise but so too are the number of large-scale emergencies that result in mass casualties and civil disturbance. Large special events serve as economic drivers for many communities; however, special event organizers must also consider that in today's world there are an increasing number of security concerns they must be prepared to handle. Here are a few trends that every community, venue owner, and special event organizer must consider.

Emergency Preparedness Best Practices for Special Events

Emergency preparedness for special events goes well beyond stationing security guards at various locations to manage the risk exposure and potential consequence of a crisis. Crisis and emergency preparedness is a complex process that must be integrated into the operational elements of the event security so that readiness is maintained. Here are a few best practices and tips:

- Have extensive knowledge of the venue, inside and out
- Assess potential threats
- Determine attendee risks
- Develop venue-specific security plans
- Develop scalable emergency response strategies
- Develop crisis management and business resumption strategies
- Coordinate with community partners and first responders
- Train, exercise, and drill the plan with staff and community stakeholders
- Control the crowd
- Debrief and make improvements
- Stay connected
- Do not underestimate the importance of crisis and emergency preparedness.

Large Scale Emergencies on the Rise:

- According to the FBI, over the past twenty years there have been over 300 active shooter incidents resulting in almost 3,000 casualties and 1,000 fatalities.
- In 2020, the United States had a record number of public demonstrations that grew into civil disturbances resulting in over \$2 billion in damages according to the Verisk Property Claims Services.
- According to the Center for Strategic & International Studies, over the past twenty-five years there have been over 900 terrorist attacks and foiled plots in the United States. These terrorist plots were made by religious, left-wing, right-wing, and ethnonationalist groups.
- Research indicates that disease outbreaks have been increasing significantly since 1980 and this risk will continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and into the decades to come.
- According to the International Disaster Database, natural disasters and large-scale emergencies are on the rise, globally and the United States. Although deaths from natural disasters are down, the cost and economic loss from natural disasters has risen exponentially.

Response Best Practices: Evidence-Based Evacuation Planning



Evacuation Planning – Critical Tool for Communities

Evacuation orders are a common instrument for Emergency Managers to move individuals away from impending hazard threats. An evacuation order is no easy task. Planning, training, and exercising the processes and procedures of a mass evacuation is critically important.

Leverage Evidence- Based Lessons Learned

Evacuations have been studied for over 50 years by social scientists, creating a large repository of evidence-based knowledge on the subject that is rarely referenced. ISC has merged this empirical evidence with modern lessons learned and best practices to provide our clients with evacuation plans that are germane to their community and include reliable operational strategies for evacuating or sheltering-in-place



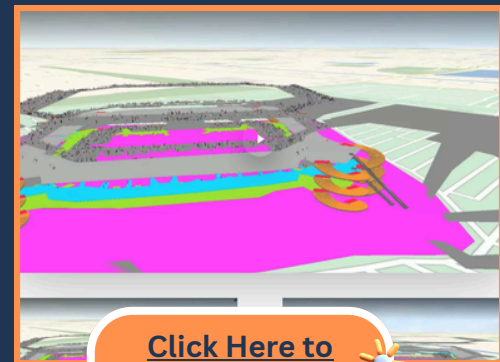
Case Study:

Evacuation Modeling Using Social Behavior Analysis

Communities cannot underestimate the importance of conducting an evacuation study and the value of evacuation clearance time modeling to help facilitate good decision-making and operational effectiveness. Recent new advancements in technology will not only improve decision-making but also serve as an invaluable tool to operationally visualize evacuation behavior patterns and improve evacuation operations.

ISC recently conducted all-hazards evacuation clearance time study utilizing a robust and state-of-the-art modeling software that allows users to systematically analyze multimodal evacuation strategies across the full transportation network to include pedestrian flow patterns. Data inputs can be manipulated to include statistical data of known evacuation behaviors such as type of vehicles, number of vehicles pulling trailers, and other evacuation behaviors. The following pictures and video simulate the mass evacuation of a 65,000-seat stadium based on an active assailant/terrorist threat scenario.

Crowd flow modeling can help to understand security needs to manage pedestrian flow patterns, crowd flow patterns for concerts, mass evacuation of stadiums, and many other applications for crowd management strategies.



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Recovery Best Practices



Thoroughly Assess Community Impacts and Immediate Needs

One of the most immediate, and critical, operational needs for successful community disaster recovery is the timely and accurate assessment of post-disaster community needs that is incorporated into community recovery strategy. A timely impact analysis and accurate needs assessment sets the operational tempo for the long-term community recovery and provides the necessary intelligence for local, regional, state and federal partners as to the necessity of disaster recovery support. A community's impact assessment process should be comprised of three stages: 1) community impact profiles, 2) community cross-sector impact analysis, and 3) impact assessment and analysis. This information will be used not only to justify the necessity of disaster assistance, but also provide an operational framework in which disaster management leadership and local community stakeholders are afforded a visionary perspective of potential disaster recovery issues. Most importantly, these assessments provide communities with a strategic perspective that extends beyond tactical operations of delivering immediate community needs and provide a framework for the management of sustained long-term recovery operations.

[Read the Full Article Here](#) 

Read more on the **Community Disaster Recovery Success Series**.

- [Part 1: Establish a Recovery Governance](#)
- [Part 2: Create a Recovery Management Strategy](#)
- [Part 3: Disaster Recovery Committee Coordination](#)
- [Part 4: Thoroughly Assess Impacts & Needs](#)
- [Part 5: Importance of Community Outreach](#)
- [Part 6: Be Prepared for Disaster Recovery](#)
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Maximize Vital Community Disaster Recovery & Mitigation Funds



Odysseus Features for Disaster Grant Management Solutions



Mitigation Best Practices



Creating and Maintaining a Sustainable Hazard Mitigation Program

There is a growing challenge for communities of all sizes to regularly update, maintain, and implement their hazard mitigation plans. However, according to FEMA, over half of the nation's municipal and county mitigation plans have fallen out of compliance and many communities struggle to implement key mitigation initiatives. As a result, communities have wasted the initial investment to develop mitigation plans and find themselves spending the same effort, if not more, in developing a new, compliant plan and be eligible for pre- and post-disaster funding.

ISC's core preparedness philosophy takes a holistic approach to crisis management, prevention, and recovery. We craft an interconnected strategy of planning, training, and crisis response to ensure a community's needs are met in totality.

Our comprehensive and programmatic solutions are executed by knowledgeable staff who have developed plans for some of our Nation's largest communities. We are a team of experts who have implemented billions of dollars in pre- and post-disaster mitigation projects. Our innovations focus on meaningful mitigation processes and outcomes while easing the burden in developing, maintaining, and implementing your community's mitigation investments.



Click below to watch a video on ISC's hazard mitigation program management strategies.



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- Threats and Hazards Identification
- Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness and Planning Development
- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery
- Technical Support
- Committee and Workgroup Governance Development
- Community Outreach
- Grant Management and Procurement Support
- Community Technical Surveys & Analysis
- Mapping and Geospatial Analysis

FEMA Review Council

FEMA 2.0: What H.R. 4669 Could Mean for the Future of Federal Disaster Management

Federal disaster policy is entering one of the most consequential reform periods in decades. Two major efforts—one legislative, one executive—are moving in parallel, each proposing a different vision for the future of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Although they share the broad goal of improving FEMA’s performance, the FEMA Review Council’s leaked draft report and the FEMA Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669) diverge sharply in structure, philosophy, and operational impact.



FEMA Review Council

The FEMA Review Council—established last year to evaluate FEMA’s structure and performance—has not yet released an official report. However, a preliminary draft was leaked earlier this year, offering a glimpse into the direction the Council may recommend.

According to reporting from Smoky Mountain News and other outlets, the draft emphasizes:

- Significant reductions in FEMA’s federal workforce (up to 50 percent)
- Shifting more responsibility to states and local governments
- Exploring privatization options for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Reducing federal involvement in mitigation and resilience programs
- Reframing FEMA as a leaner, more state-driven support agency

The draft has generated substantial debate, particularly among state and local emergency managers concerned about increased burden without corresponding resources.

The FEMA Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669)

In contrast, the House of Representatives is advancing a comprehensive reform bill—the FEMA Act of 2025—that would elevate FEMA to an independent, cabinet-level agency reporting directly to the President. The bill focuses on:

- Strengthening FEMA’s authorities
- Improving Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA)
- Modernizing mitigation and preparedness programs
- Enhancing transparency and administrative efficiency
- Stabilizing FEMA’s workforce and leadership structure

The bill passed out of committee with a 57–3 bipartisan vote, signaling broad interest in reforming FEMA through legislation rather than executive restructuring.

Side-by-Side Comparison of FEMA Review Council vs. H.R. 4669

Issue	FEMA Review Council	H.R. 4669 – FEMA Act of 2025
Structural Placement	Keeps FEMA within current structure; shifts more responsibility to states.	Elevates FEMA to an independent, cabinet-level agency.
Leadership	Politically appointed council; no major statutory leadership reforms.	Creates a Senate-confirmed Administrator and Deputy Administrator with defined qualifications.
Staffing	Proposes workforce reductions up to 50%.	Retains and stabilizes FEMA’s workforce; no major cuts.
Transparency	Leaked draft; limited public process.	Standard congressional transparency: published bill text, committee votes, and public summaries.
Public Assistance	Greater burden on states; potential delays in federal support.	Seeks to streamline and strengthen PA processes.
Individual Assistance	Concerns about reduced federal capacity and slower survivor assistance.	Aims to improve IA delivery and modernize authorities.
Mitigation	Potential cuts to resilience programs; reduced federal role.	Reinforces FEMA’s mitigation mission and authorities.
NFIP	Discusses privatization and shifting risk to private markets.	Does not center on privatization; NFIP reforms not a primary focus.
Administrative Costs	Reduces federal costs by shifting responsibilities to states.	Creates a working capital fund to improve administrative efficiency.

Disaster News

Current FEMA Disaster Declarations: March 2026

March 2026 saw a relatively quiet pace for new Presidential emergency, major disaster, and fire management declarations, continuing the slowdown observed after January's historic wave of winter storm-related emergencies. Activity focused primarily on follow-up actions and amendments to prior declarations from the late January 2026 severe winter storms (including Winter Storm Fern), with limited new incidents. No large cluster of fresh emergency declarations (EM series) emerged, and fire management assistance grants (FM series) were not prominently reported for new wildfire events during the month.



FEMA

- Amendments and upgrades tied to the January 22–27, 2026 severe winter storm event, shifting or expanding assistance for ongoing recovery:
 - Louisiana (FEMA-4900-DR): A major disaster declaration (initially dated February 18, 2026) saw a Public Assistance Only notice and Amendment 001 issued around early March (notices dated March 4 and March 9–10, 2026). These expanded eligibility, including permanent work and support for private non-profits providing essential governmental services, for the severe winter storm incident period of January 23–27, 2026.
 - Tennessee (FEMA-4898-DR): Amendment 002 to the major disaster declaration (initially February 6, 2026) was issued around March 8–9, 2026, further adjusting assistance for affected areas from the same winter storm.
 - Similar follow-on actions appeared for other states impacted by the January storms, though specific new major disaster approvals in March were limited compared to February's upgrades (e.g., TN, LA, MS).
- No major new emergency declarations (EM-36xx series) for distinct incidents were widely reported in March, in contrast to February's standalone DC sewer line collapse (EM-3643-DC).
- Fire management assistance declarations: No significant new FM-series wildfire incidents were noted in available records for March 2026, consistent with the limited fire activity described for February.

Overall, March featured far fewer standalone new Presidential declarations than January's dozen-plus emergencies or even February's mix of upgrades and isolated new actions. The month was dominated by administrative amendments and expansions for lingering winter storm recovery in southern and mid-southern states, primarily enhancing Public Assistance and related programs for infrastructure and essential services. This reflected a continued focus on long-term recovery rather than rapid response to fresh events. No prominent new wildfire or unrelated emergency incidents drove declarations during the period.

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Although they provide much needed resources and capabilities during the time of a crisis or disaster, a State emergency management agency's (EMA) operational focus extends far beyond the response phase of an incident. The reality is that the success of a State EMA's response operation is intimately related to its ability to systematically track, guide, direct, monitor, manage, and administer all aspects of a comprehensive emergency management program across all state agency, county and municipal government partners, regional authorities, and other stakeholders.



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Comprehensive EM Features

Preparedness Programs

- Planning Management
- Training Management
- Exercise Management
- Continuity of Operations
- Community Outreach
- Program Evaluation
- Program Compliance
- Project Reporting & Tracking
- Grant Management

Response Programs

- Incident Action Planning
- Situational Awareness Sharing
- Ops & Incident Reporting
- After-Action Review Analysis
- Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Cost & Expense Tracking
- Information Sharing

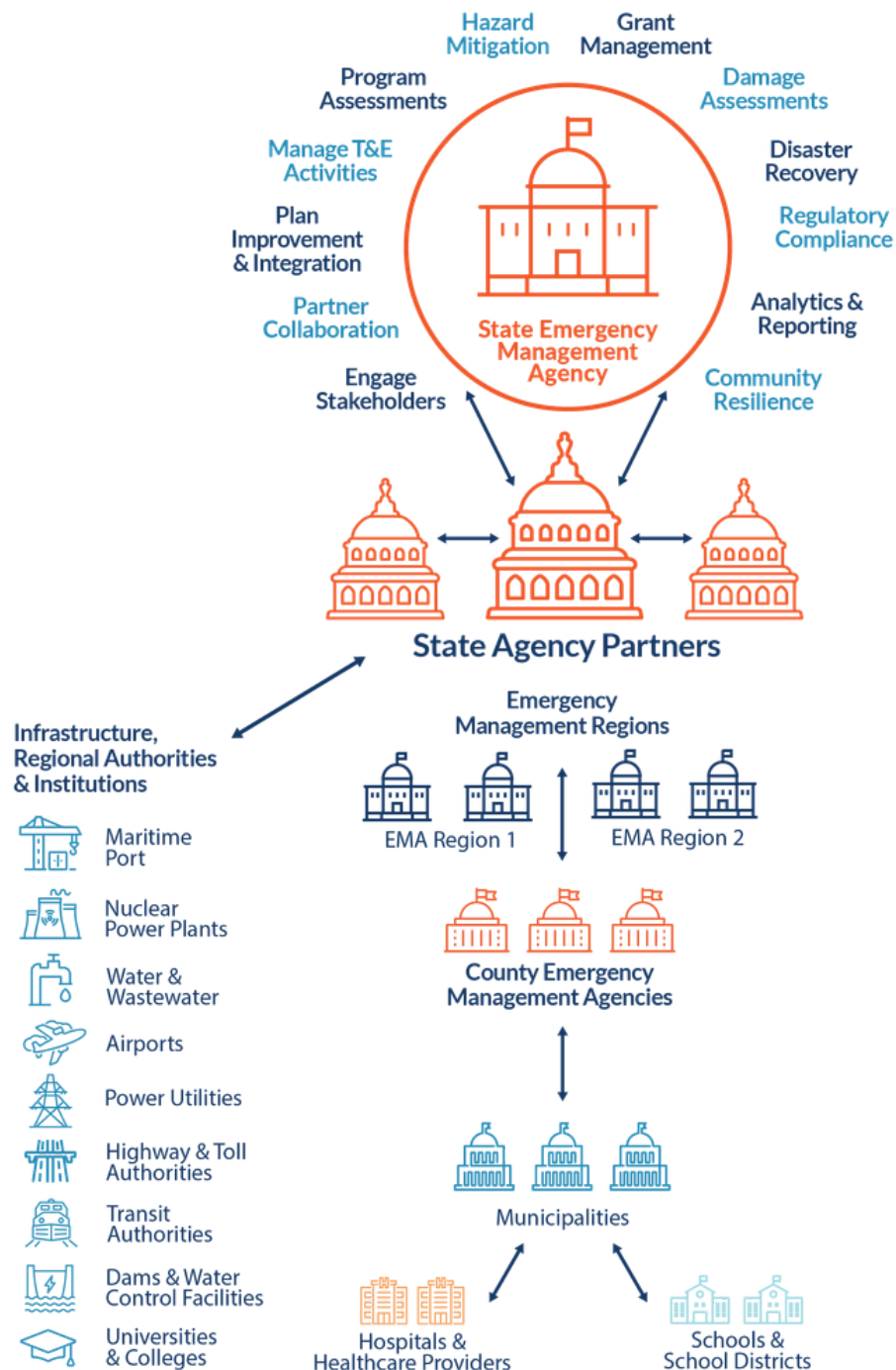
Recovery Programs

- Damage Assessments
- Debris Monitoring
- FEMA Public Assistance
- FEMA Individual Assistance
- HUD CDBG-DR
- Recovery Project Tracking
- Closeout & Audits

Mitigation Programs

- Mitigation Planning
- Risk Assessments
- Federal Cost Share Tracking
- Grant & Project Management

System-of-Systems Comprehensive EM Network



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- Create Efficiencies with Plan Maintenance
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- Mitigation Committee Management Tools
- Assess Hazard Mitigation Opportunities
- Real Time Tracking of Mitigation Grant Funds
- Interactive Mapping & Hazard Modeling
- Streamline Multi-Jurisdictional Planning
- Mitigation Crosswalk Compliance Metrics
- Track Mitigation Plan Participation
- Manage & Track Progress of Community Mitigation Projects
- Train Staff on FEMA Mitigation Requirements and Drive Accountability
- Maximize Federal Funding Possibilities
- Identify Mitigation Funding Gaps
- Adaptable and Customizable to Meet Your Needs
- Increase Hazard Mitigation Program Efficiency

Case Studies



Cook County Hazard Mitigation Program	
# of Participating Jurisdictions	134
# of Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects Managed by Odysseus GMT	2,015
Total FEMA Mitigation Grants	\$416 M
Total Value of Projects	\$2.8 B

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

- 136 Participating Jurisdictions
- 230% Increase in HMP Participation
- 2,015 Mitigation Projects Identified
- \$400+ Million in FEMA HMGP Grants
- \$2.8+ Billion in Pre-Disaster Mitigation Actions
- 100% FEMA Compliant
- Completed in Less Than 5 Months

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ABOUT US

Integrated Solutions Consulting is a professional services firm focused on developing and implementing comprehensive crisis and consequence management solutions. We are a team of innovative problem-solvers that combine experience and evidence-based knowledge to deliver practical, best practice results across multiple industries to make communities safer and more resilient

Top Supplier
Performance Rating
dun & bradstreet
97.1%
Successful
Performance

We help our clients by providing comprehensive emergency management consulting services that use data-driven research, sophisticated crisis modeling and seasoned consultants to help our clients manage unexpected emergency and disaster situations.



Expertise: Disaster Recovery

ISC's Knowledge, Expertise, & Performance

Over the past three decades, ISC has worked with FEMA, state, and municipal clients to mobilize thousands of highly qualified technical staff to the most significant disasters in U.S. history, to EOCs and JFOs across the country. Under our contracts to provide professional technical disaster recovery services and navigating the statutory authorities of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, we have been instrumental in assisting our clients with identifying, administering, and managing tens of billions of dollars in federal disaster assistance funding.

▶ OUR PROGRAM & KNOWLEDGE CAPABILITIES:

- FEMA Public Assistance Program Management
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- FEMA Individual Assistance Program Support
- FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants
- FEMA Community Disaster Loans
- FEMA Section 428 Alternative Public Assistance Program
- HUD Community Development Block Grant Program Management
- Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief (FHWA)
- National Flood Insurance Program
- State Managed Catastrophic Relief Fund Programs
- US Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Loan Program
- USDA Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Program

ISC offers our clients a unique blend of emergency management professionals with expertise in disaster recovery operations and disaster assistance programs. Our team has supported local governments, states, tribal nations, and non-government organizations on a litany of disaster recovery operations, disaster assistance programs, community disaster recovery planning, and other special disaster recovery projects around the nation.



[Learn More About Our Disaster Recovery Services](#)



Although disasters are devastating and disruptive, it is important to recognize that every disaster brings about opportunity for communities to improve their conditions and to build a more resilient future. The better communities prepare for disaster, the better they can capitalize on the opportunity to break the disaster cycle.

Contracting Made Easy!

ISC offers numerous competitively procured – and federally compliant – contract vehicles across the Nation. Contracting with ISC takes only minutes.

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