

DISASTER NEWS YOU CAN USE

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This Month in Disaster History

Oakland Fire Storm – 1991

On the morning of October 20, 1991, a rekindled grass fire in the Berkeley Hills, driven by dry Diablo winds gusting above 60 mph and relative humidity below 10 percent, rapidly transitioned into a wildland–urban interface (WUI) firestorm. Five years of drought, dense eucalyptus and pine stands, wood-shake roofs, and steep terrain with narrow, winding roads created extreme fuel continuity and spotting potential. The fire developed its own wind field, producing rotational vortices and ember showers that ignited structures far ahead of the main front. Within the first hour it destroyed nearly 790 homes; overall it burned approximately 1,520 acres, destroyed 2,843 single-family dwellings and 437 apartment or condominium units, killed 25 people, and injured about 150, with damages estimated at \$1.5 billion. Officially designated the Tunnel Fire by Cal Fire, the event remains one of the most destructive WUI fires in U.S. history and demonstrated how meteorological and fuel conditions can overwhelm conventional suppression capacity (Pagni, 1993; Routley, 1991).

The response exposed critical gaps...

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October 2026

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Disaster Declaration Uncertainty

Longer Waits, Greater Scrutiny, and Implications for Recovery

State and local governments are facing a sustained shift in how major disaster declarations are processed and decided. Analysis of FEMA data reported by The Texas Tribune and Urban Institute fellow Andrew Rumbach shows that communities have waited an average of 9.5 weeks for a final decision under the current administration—approximately three times the historical average of roughly three weeks since 2000. As of August 24, 2026, 22 requests had been denied, the highest annual total since at least 2000. On October 7, FEMA denied...

Continued on Page 3

2026 Tropical Season Review

A Tail of Three Basins

The 2026 tropical season diverged sharply from the above-average Atlantic outlooks in the May and June issues of Disaster News You Can Use. Hurricane Isaias became the basin's first hurricane on October 7—the latest such date in 121 years (since 1905)—before peaking as a Category 3 and making landfall near Destin, Florida, as a Category 2. The Atlantic produced no hurricanes through September largely because a strengthening...

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Disaster History

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1991 Oakland Firestorm

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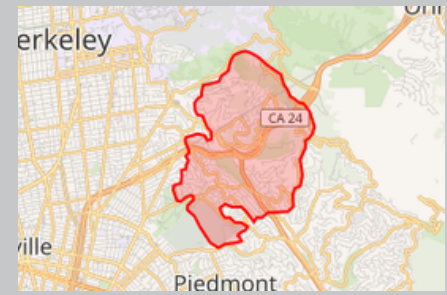
in multi-agency coordination and evacuation. Early mutual-aid units arrived with incompatible radio frequencies and hydrant fittings, while water-system failures reduced available pressure in key areas. Narrow streets became blocked by residents fleeing downhill and apparatus attempting to advance uphill, contributing to fatalities among both civilians and responders. Joint command was eventually established among Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, and the California Department of Forestry, but the initial lack of unified incident management delayed resource allocation and situational awareness. Public-health and emergency-services functions focused on mass sheltering, medical treatment for burns and smoke inhalation, and later recovery support; however, the speed of the fire limited pre-evacuation warning time. These operational shortfalls aligned with long-standing disaster-research findings that multi-organizational responses fail when agencies lack shared procedures, interoperable communications, and clear authority for evacuation (Quarantelli, 1984; Dynes, 1994).

The fire directly prompted systemic reform. California Senate Bill 1841 (effective 1993) required the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which integrates the Incident Command System, multi-agency coordination, mutual aid, and the operational-area concept. SEMS became mandatory for state agencies and a condition for local reimbursement of response costs. Subsequent fire-code changes mandated defensible-space clearances, restricted wood-shake roofing in high-fire-hazard zones, and strengthened vegetation-management requirements. Local investments followed in water-system redundancy, interoperable radio networks, additional hilltop fire stations, and formalized evacuation planning. These measures reflect an explicit recognition that WUI fires demand both structural mitigation and standardized multi-jurisdictional command (California Government Code § 8607; U.S. Fire Administration, 1991).

Comparisons with later WUI disasters, such as the 2017 Tubbs Fire, the 2018 Camp Fire, and the 2020 Glass Fire, reveal persistent parallels. All featured rapid wind-driven spread through mixed wildland and residential fuels, communication interoperability problems during the first hours, and evacuation congestion on limited road networks. Multi-agency reviews consistently identify the same failure modes: delayed establishment of unified command, incomplete public warning, and insufficient pre-event coordination between fire, law enforcement, and emergency management. What distinguished the 1991 event was its role as a catalyst for statewide institutional change; subsequent fires have tested those reforms and shown that while SEMS and modern mutual-aid systems improve resource ordering, they do not eliminate the physical constraints of topography, fuel continuity, or the time required for orderly evacuation under extreme fire behavior (California Office of Emergency Services, 1992; Tierney, 2019).

Today, the contemporary risk environment remains elevated. Climate-driven increases in drought duration, the persistence of...

Continued on page 4



Perimeter of the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. ~ USGS



View of the Oakland Firestorm from the Claremont Hotel ~ Unknown



Damage in the Hills ~ Cal OES

The Value of Preparedness

A Commitment to a Culture of Preparedness



Learn More About Our Disaster Preparedness Services



Declaration Uncertainty | Tail of 2 Basins

Continued...

Disaster Declaration Uncertainty

Continued

For a major disaster declaration covering eight counties (including Cook and Will) affected by August storms and a derecho; the state has indicated it will appeal. FEMA also raised the statewide per capita impact indicator to \$1.94 for incidents with start dates on or after October 1, 2025 (Federal Register, September 29, 2026), increasing the documented damage threshold required for a recommendation.

These longer timelines and higher denial rates make thorough, timely damage assessments more important than ever. Local governments are frequently advancing debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent repairs before learning whether federal Public Assistance or Individual Assistance will be approved—one Illinois community reported spending more than \$1.8 million on debris cleanup alone while awaiting a decision. Because appeals and re-evaluations remain possible, the quality of the initial damage documentation directly affects whether a jurisdiction can later demonstrate that impacts meet or approach the updated statewide and county per capita indicators. Incomplete or delayed assessments leave communities both financially exposed and less able to support a strong declaration package or appeal.

Integrated Solutions Consulting's Odysseus EM365 Site Inspection Tool helps jurisdictions capture the consistent, defensible data required in this environment. The tool supports structured site inspections with standardized damage categorization, photo documentation, location data, and real-time reporting that can be aggregated quickly against FEMA's per capita thresholds. By streamlining field collection and reducing inconsistencies across inspection teams, EM365 helps applicants produce the clear, threshold-focused documentation needed for both the original request and any subsequent appeal, while also generating records that support cash-flow planning and non-federal recovery options if a declaration is delayed or denied.

For ISC clients, the combination of declaration uncertainty and higher thresholds underscores the value of treating rigorous damage assessment as a core early action rather than a follow-on task. Jurisdictions that invest in timely, well-documented inspections—supported by tools such as Odysseus EM365—are better positioned to protect both immediate recovery capacity and long-term fiscal stability, whether a major disaster declaration is ultimately approved or alternative recovery pathways must be pursued.

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 - Office of the Governor of Illinois. (2026, October 8). Trump Administration denies Illinois request for emergency assistance after severe August storms

Tail of Two Basins

Continued

El Niño generated elevated wind shear and more stable conditions. By contrast, the Eastern and Central Pacific basins were highly active: both ran well above normal, three storms reached Category 5 intensity (Genevieve, Lowell, and Polo), tying the 2002 record, and Hurricane Polo peaked at 180 mph, while combined Accumulated Cyclone Energy set a new basin record. Hawaii sustained direct impacts from Hurricanes Lala (August) and Lowell (early September), which damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and caused substantial public infrastructure losses; major disaster declarations authorizing Public Assistance were approved in early October. Super Typhoon Bavi also prompted an emergency declaration for the Northern Mariana Islands in July. These outcomes illustrate the classic El Niño pattern of suppressed Atlantic activity and enhanced Pacific cyclogenesis. NOAA continues to indicate greater than 90% odds of a very strong El Niño this winter, elevating the risk of an active southern storm track, river flooding in the lower Mississippi and Tennessee valleys, and coastal flooding along the East Coast and Gulf.

For emergency managers, Atlantic and Gulf jurisdictions should use the quieter season for after-action reviews, plan updates, and staff training rather than reduced readiness, while Pacific and Hawaii partners continue Public Assistance documentation under the approved declarations. Across regions, the elevated probability of a strong El Niño winter requires pre-event validation of debris contracts, floodplain procedures, shelter capacity, and logistics before the December–January peak. Integrated Solutions Consulting assists Pacific jurisdictions with response and Public Assistance recovery, and helps Atlantic and Gulf clients convert the lull into plan refreshes, training, and winter flood readiness exercises so local capacity matches the actual risk environment.

The Month in Disaster History

Continued

1991 Oakland Firestorm

Continued

non-native fuels such as eucalyptus, and continued development in the wildland-urban interface sustain the potential for similar events. Mitigation today includes multi-year vegetation-management plans that treat hundreds of miles of roadside and hillside fuels, updated building codes requiring Class A roofing and ember-resistant vents, community wildfire-protection plans, and expanded use of real-time weather and fire-behavior modeling for red-flag warnings. Public-health systems now integrate air-quality monitoring and sheltering protocols for smoke exposure. Nonetheless, narrow legacy road networks and the density of existing housing continue to limit evacuation capacity, underscoring that structural and land-use measures must complement operational improvements (Oakland Fire Department assessments; Manzello & Suzuki, 2015).

For the emergency management community, the 1991 firestorm supplies durable lessons. First, multi-agency coordination cannot be improvised during the incident; shared radio systems, pre-scripted mutual-aid agreements, and joint training are prerequisites. Second, evacuation authority, messaging, and traffic management must be clarified in advance and exercised under realistic time constraints. Third, WUI risk reduction requires continuous vegetation management and building-performance standards rather than post-event recovery alone. Current practice—SEMS/NIMS integration, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and advances in firebrand research—directly addresses these gaps. The remaining challenge is to sustain the political and fiscal commitment to mitigation in the intervals between major fires, when the visible urgency of 1991 has faded but the underlying physical conditions have not.

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Statewide Comprehensive EM Program Management Solution



D Y S S E U STM

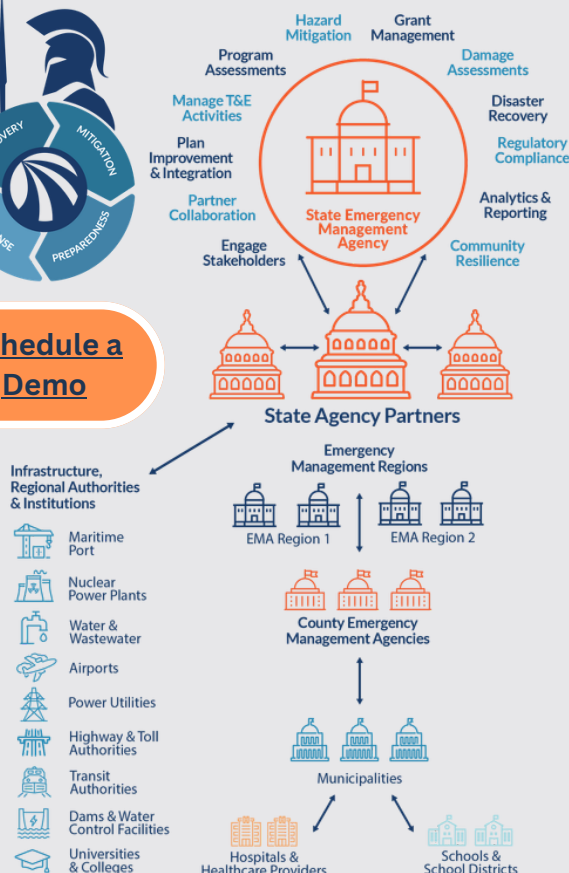
EM365



OdysseusTM offers state emergency management agencies a software solution for managing a unified statewide comprehensive emergency management program. OdysseusTM "system-of-systems" architecture gives state EMA's a force multiplier that goes beyond managing EOCs.



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September 2026

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Disaster Resource Center



Best Practices Library

Industry Best Practices

Don't Let Disaster Strike Twice: Navigating the Complex World of Post-Disaster Funding



In the wake of a disaster, the road to recovery can be long and arduous. Applicants are often left to navigate a complex maze of requirements, deadlines, and paperwork, all while trying to rebuild their lives and communities. The consequences of not following proper protocol can be severe, leading to denied or de-obligated funds, leaving applicants without the resources they need to recover.



Written by

On-Call Expert Support



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.



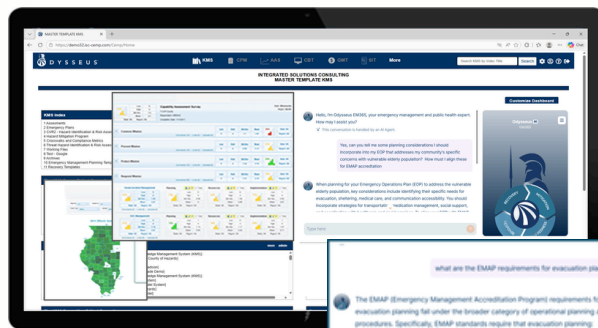
D Y S S E U S

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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Preparedness Best Practices



Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Wildfire risk continues to grow across communities of every size. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), as defined and authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), provides a clear, collaborative, and prioritized path to reduce that risk. Effective CWPPs meet federal minimum requirements for collaboration, prioritized hazardous fuel reduction, and treatment of structural ignitability—while positioning communities for federal priority consideration and grant eligibility. Outdated, incomplete, or non-compliant plans leave communities exposed and weaker competitors for the funding needed to move from risk to resilience.

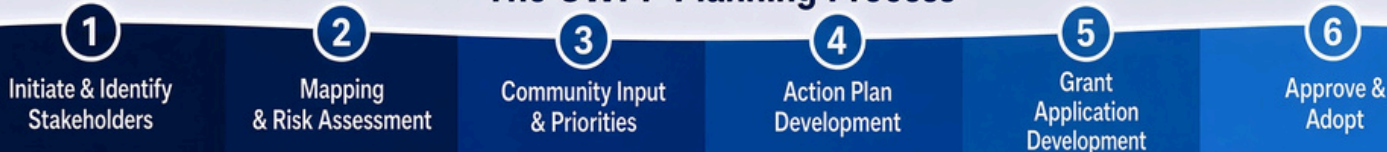
Six Critical Components of a Successful CWPP

	Meeting HFRA Minimum Requirements	A valid CWPP <u>must be collaboratively developed AND agreed to</u> by local government, the local fire department(s), and the State forestry agency, and must identify and prioritize fuel treatments while recommending reduction measures.
	Accurate Risk & Values-at-Risk Assessment	Strong plans rest on solid analysis of fuels, topography, fire history, structural vulnerability, critical infrastructure, and community assets so prioritization is defensible .
	Defensible Prioritization of Treatments	HFRA requires identification and ranking of hazardous fuel reduction areas and recommended treatment methods on both federal and non-federal land that protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
	Structural Ignitability & Community Action	Plans <u>must recommend practical measures</u> homeowners and communities can take to reduce structure ignitability, supporting both individual responsibility and community-scale protection.
	Funding Alignment & Priority Consideration	A current, compliant CWPP strengthens grant applications for programs such as the Community Wildfire Defense Grant and other federal/state funding streams, giving communities greater influence over how projects are prioritized.
	Local Ownership & Long-Term Use	Plans developed through genuine collaboration are <u>far more likely to be implemented, updated, and used</u> to guide real risk-reduction work

Drive Community Wildfire Resilience



The CWPP Planning Process



Response Best Practices



Conduct Accurate and Timely Damage Assessments & Cost Estimates

Large-scale disasters demand rapid, accurate, and defensible documentation of damage. Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), comprehensive damage inventories, and precise cost estimates form the foundation of successful FEMA Public Assistance (PA) applications, project formulation, and long-term recovery. Errors or delays at this stage can jeopardize funding, slow recovery, and expose communities to audit risk.

Why Accurate PDAs, Damage Inventories, and Cost Estimates Matter

- **Declaration Thresholds:** PDAs supply the data FEMA and states use to determine whether a major disaster declaration is warranted and which categories of assistance will be authorized.
- **Project Formulation:** Detailed damage descriptions, dimensions, and cost estimates become the basis for Project Worksheets (PWs) and fixed-cost estimates under the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA).
- **Eligibility & Compliance:** Thorough documentation protects against de-obligation, supports 404/406 mitigation opportunities, and satisfies FEMA quality-review requirements.
- **Speed of Recovery:** Rapid, high-quality assessments allow communities to move from response into recovery without losing momentum or institutional knowledge.

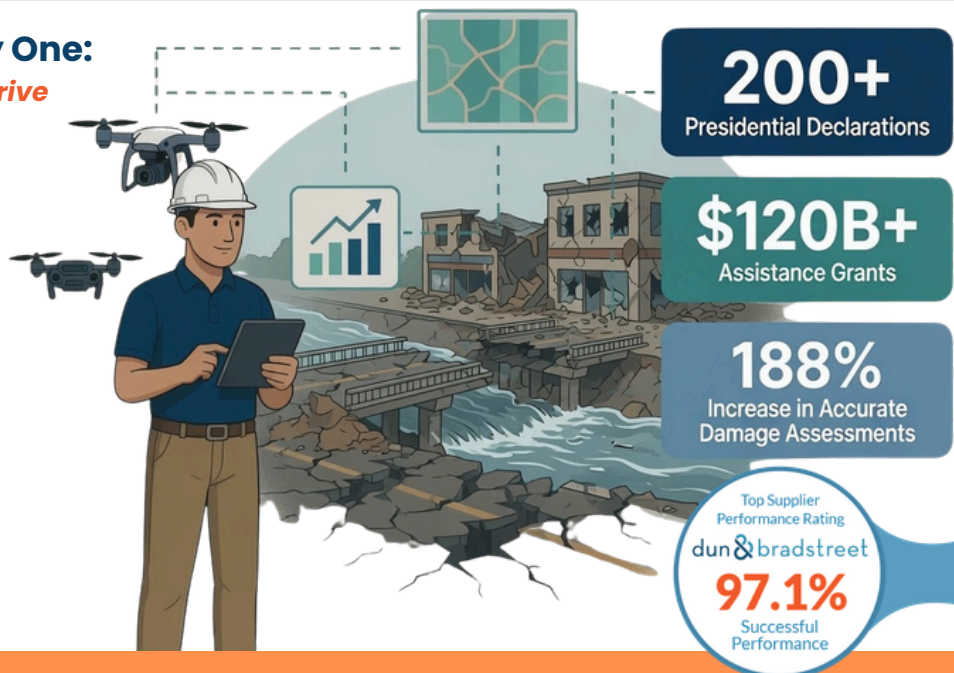
Don't Jeopardize Funds – FEMA's Expedited Timelines for Reporting Damages & Costs

FEMA is tightening timelines for reporting damages and submitting Damage Inventories and cost estimates under the Public Assistance program, including the common 60-day window after the Recovery Scoping Meeting and proposed reforms that would **impose firmer deadlines** on subrecipients with faster FEMA review clocks. These compressed requirements force local governments and other subrecipients to rapidly complete site inspections, document damages, and developing **defensible estimates**, often while still managing active response operations, creating significant capacity strain. Missing the shortened windows *risks delayed or reduced funding, incomplete project formulation, and greater audit exposure.*

Accurate Documentation from Day One:

How ISC Experience, Expertise & Innovation Drive Recovery Success

Accurate damage documentation and cost estimating at the outset of a disaster is the single greatest predictor of recovery success. ISC bridges three decades of proven field experience with advanced technologies to help subrecipients meet FEMA's compressed reporting timelines without sacrificing quality or eligibility. By rapidly delivering thorough, defensible inventories and estimates, ISC enables communities to stay ahead of deadlines, maximize funding, and protect against de-obligation risks.



Response Best Practices



OUR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT & COST ESTIMATING SERVICES

- * **Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA)**
Rapid mobilization of experienced field teams to support joint local/state/FEMA PDAs. We collect, validate, and package damage data that meets FEMA declaration thresholds and supports both Public and Individual Assistance pathways.
- * **Damage Inventory & Documentation**
Systematic identification and cataloging of damaged facilities, infrastructure, and eligible sites. We produce complete damage descriptions and dimensions (DDD) that form the foundation of Project Worksheets and fixed-cost estimates.
- * **Cost Estimating & Project Formulation**
Parametric and detailed cost estimates for Category A–G work. Our estimators apply FEMA-accepted methodologies, documented unit costs, and construction means-and-methods knowledge to produce efficient, traceable, and defensible estimates
- * **360° & Drone-Enabled Assessments**
Licensed drone pilots and recovery specialists capture high-resolution aerial imagery and 360-degree panoramic records of damaged facilities and communities—creating permanent, court-ready documentation in minutes.
- * **GIS Response Mapping & Impact Analysis**
Spatial analysis, community impact mapping, and visualization tools that accelerate situational awareness, resource prioritization, and briefings to elected officials and FEMA.
- * **Cost Recovery & Disaster Engineering Support**
Identification of costs eligible under FEMA PA, Section 404/406 Hazard Mitigation, and other federal programs. Our disaster engineer experts flag opportunities and pitfalls early so communities maximize funding while remaining audit-ready

~ **Accurate damage documentation and cost estimating at the outset of a disaster is the single greatest predictor of recovery success** ~

OUR INNOVATIONS

360 Degree Damage Inventory Windshield Survey

With the introduction of new FEMA program timelines and opportunities, documenting your disaster damages has never been more important. Being able to show your community before and after the



devastation is critical in securing vital disaster assistance funding and advocating to FEMA and others well after the disaster has left the mainstream news cycle. With our 360 Degree Damage Windshield Survey, communities can not only conduct detailed street-level damage assessments of their community within hours but also document the before/after the disaster for future reference. This new technology serves as a best practice for securing disaster assistance funding for your community.



D Y S S E U S[™] EM365

DISASTER SITE INSPECTION TOOL

ASSESS, LOG, AND MANAGE DISASTER DAMAGES, COST ESTIMATES, AND FEMA GRANTS IN REAL-TIME

The Odysseus™ EM365 offers a ready-to-use application for real-time damage assessments, log site-specific damage inventory, and document detailed cost estimates. The application is customizable, mobile friendly, and integrated with the GMT to streamline disaster recovery and the FEMA reimbursement process.

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Recovery Best Practices



Thoroughly Assess Your Community Disaster 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](#)

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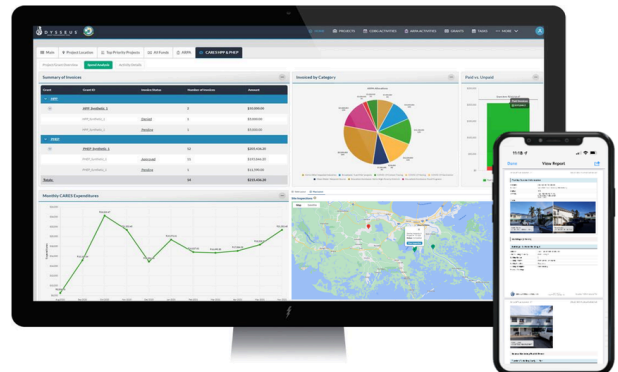
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Maximize Vital Disaster Recovery Funds



Manage Disaster Assistance Grants – Cradle to Grave



Mitigation Best Practices



Elevate Hazard Risk with Community Vulnerabilities Analysis

Past disaster events, both natural and manmade, seem to indicate that disasters are not problems that can be viewed or solved as isolated instances, but instead stem from the complexity of disasters and the intricate relationships society shares with both its natural and constructed environments. In other words, disasters are social constructs and that large-scale hazard events exacerbate the preexisting conditions of the community. This understanding provides clarity that a community's threat and hazard risks is a function not only of a community's core capabilities and potential hazard impacts but also provides support that consideration must be made to evaluate the community's pre-disaster conditions that either heighten or reduce its vulnerability to disaster. When disasters do happen, they have a cascading impact on a community and its residents, essential services, and critical assets. These direct and cascading impacts from disaster are increasing because our communities are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. This fundamental finding of community risk was described by Dr. Denis Mileti in 1999 and illustrated in the following diagram.

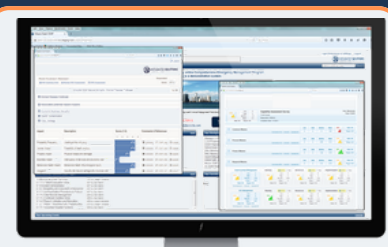
Disasters are symptoms of broader and more basic problems. Many disaster losses – rather than stemming from unexpected events – are the predictable result of interactions among three major systems: the physical environment, which includes hazardous events; the social and demographic characteristics of the communities that experience them; and the buildings, roads, bridges, and other components of the constructed environment. (Mileti, 1999).



It is commonly recognized throughout the field of emergency management that the THIRA provides a core foundation of a comprehensive emergency management program and a framework to guide and inform preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts for all hazard threats. It should be noted, however, that a THIRA that is supported by a thorough risk assessment and vulnerability analysis has much greater usefulness than a simple output of hazard risk prioritization and projected capability needs. The information and data that informs the risk analysis process should be used to support, serve as a reference, or even validate program and operational considerations; and, should ultimately improve the decision making of those involved in comprehensive emergency management activities. Additionally, a comprehensive risk assessment and vulnerability analysis should offer efficiency by providing a strategy that is scalable, flexible, and compliant with state and federal grant, administrative programs, or legal requirements that guide program measures and activities.

EM365 CVR2 Tool

The Odysseus EM365 software comes with a robust database as well as geospatial and scientific analysis tools to comprehensively assess a community's unique vulnerabilities and hazard risks.



[Learn More About the CVR2](#)

The Community Vulnerability Risk, & Resiliency (CVR2) tool provides a systematic method to analyze over 4,500 evidence-based indicators and measurement of community vulnerabilities, capabilities, mitigation, and hazard risks. The CVR2 goes beyond FEMA's National Risk Map and provides context for accurate and relevant comprehensive EM strategies.

Disaster News

Current FEMA Disaster Declarations: September 2026

September 2026 featured a concentrated cluster of major disaster declarations early in the month for lingering spring and summer severe weather events, alongside continued recovery support, limited new emergency activity, and a modest number of Fire Management Assistance Grants. Activity focused on Public Assistance (and in some cases Individual Assistance) approvals for storms, flooding, winds, and related impacts from June–August, plus post-wildfire recovery in Colorado and an earthquake in Hawaii. Major disaster declarations (DR series) approved or announced in early September included a significant batch on or around September 1:



FEMA

- North Dakota (DR-4934-ND): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes (incident period June 7–9, 2026). Public Assistance for designated counties.
- Texas (DR-4935-TX): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding (incident period July 12–August 4, 2026). Public Assistance for designated counties.
- Hawaii (DR-4936-HI): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for the earthquake of May 22, 2026. Individual Assistance available for affected residents in Hawaii County.
- Kentucky (DR-4937-KY): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides (incident period June 26–30, 2026).
- South Dakota (DR-4938-SD): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding (incident period June 28–July 3, 2026).
- Missouri (DR-4939-MO): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding (incident period July 9–11, 2026).
- Kansas (DR-4940-KS and related DR-4943-KS): Major disaster declarations on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, and flooding (incidents covering June periods).
- Oglala Sioux Tribe (DR-4941): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding (incident period June 2–4, 2026). Public Assistance support.
- Iowa (DR-4942-IA): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026, for severe storms and flooding (incident period July 1–4, 2026). Public Assistance for designated counties.
- Colorado (DR-4944-CO): Major disaster declaration on September 1, 2026 (announced September 4), for wildfires, flooding, and mudslides (incident period June 27–July 29, 2026). Public Assistance for designated counties.

Emergency declarations (EM series) were limited in September itself. One noted emergency supported response to the Hawk Fire in Nevada (incident beginning August 22), with federal assistance for emergency protective measures. Later in the month, support continued for ongoing recovery, and a tropical storm-related emergency (EM-3654) was recorded for Hawaii around September 25.

Fire Management Assistance declarations (FM series) included approvals for active wildfires:

- Arkansas Bunker Fire (FM-5676-AR, declared September 15; incident beginning September 14).
- Texas Hydra Fire (FM-5677-TX, declared September 15; incident September 15–25).

**Emergency
Management and
Disaster Recovery:
Building a More
Resilient Future**

[Learn More](#)



Industry Innovations



DYSSSEUS™ EM365 Ai

672%

INCREASE IN
PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

300^x

STAKEHOLDER
COLLABORATION

99%

REGULATORY &
PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

54^x

RETURN ON
INVESTMENT

97%

PERFORMANCE
RATING

The Industry's First Comprehensive Emergency and Disaster Program Management Software

Odysseus™ offers a suite of tools and systems designed, dedicated to the efficient management of comprehensive disaster and emergency management programs. The union of technological and programmatic features offers organizations an efficient and effective method to systematically design, develop, maintain, and continually improve all elements of a comprehensive emergency management program.



Click Here to
Learn More About Our
Innovative Technology

EM Innovations in Work

Odysseus™ EM-365

Statewide Comprehensive EM Program Management

State Emergency Management Agencies

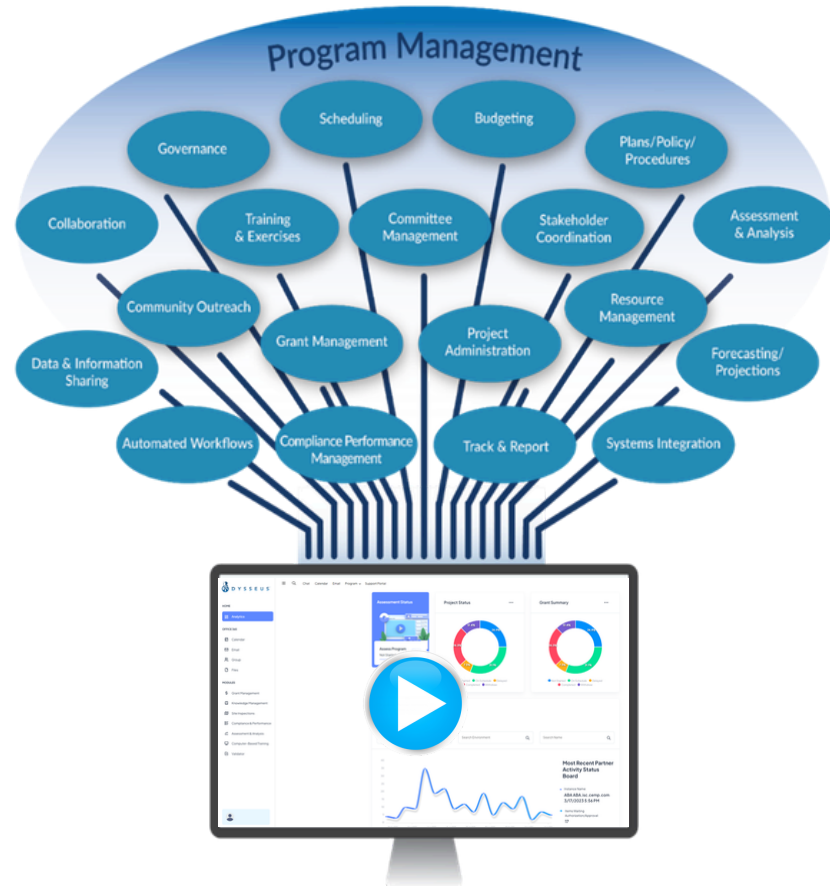
Although they provide much needed resources and capabilities during the time of a crisis or disaster, a State emergency management agency's (EMA) operational focus extends far beyond the response phase of an incident. The reality is that the success of a State EMA's response operation is intimately related 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.



Although the value is unmeasurable, many states think that coordinating a statewide comprehensive emergency management program would be a formidable task that would require significant resources. That's not true anymore.

Odysseus™ offers state emergency management agencies a software solution for managing a unified statewide comprehensive emergency management program. Odysseus™ "system-of-systems" architecture gives state EMA's a force multiplier to manage EMA program requirements statewide.

Designed by our team of leading emergency managers and software technicians, Odysseus™ offers a unique State EMA program management platform. It is a program management tool and allows for the full integration of other incident management software programs.



EM Innovations in Work

Odysseus™ EM-365

Statewide Comprehensive EM Program Management

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

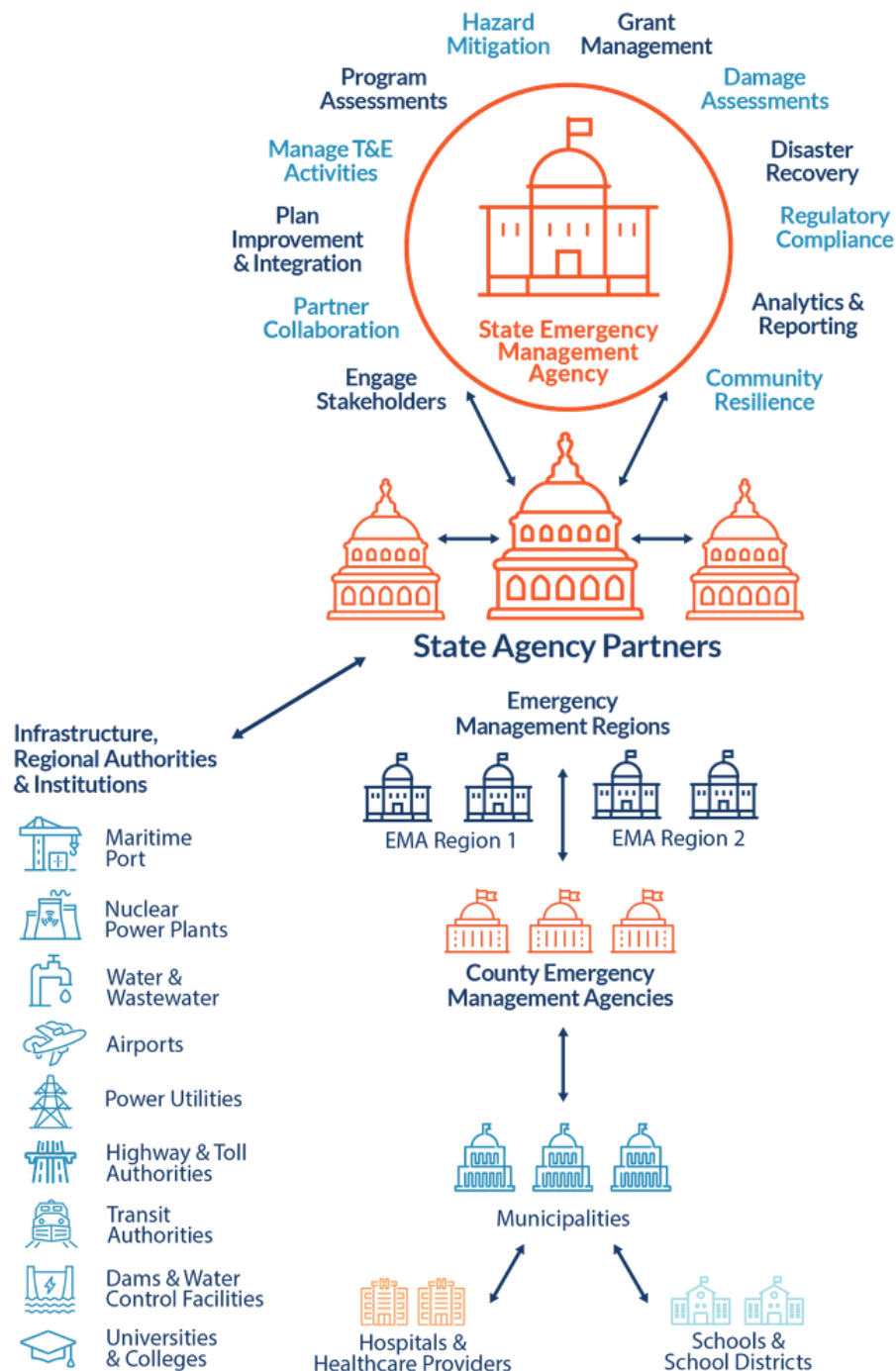
Recovery Programs

- 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



[Click Here to Learn More](#)

ODYSSEUS™ IN WORK

Hazard Mitigation Program Management *Elevate Your Community Disaster Resiliency*

Odysseus Features for Hazard Mitigation Program Solutions



Features

- Track Plan Development & Update
- Create Efficiencies with Plan Maintenance
- Track In-Kind Match Effort Contributions
- 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

[Click Here to Learn More About](#)

[Schedule a Demo](#)

Building a More Resilient Future



INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS
CONSULTING

**Click Below to Learn How We
Build a More Resilient Future**



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.



ISC | EOC Response & Recovery Support Services

Large-scale, complex, or overlapping incidents demand swift, unified coordination. Incident Management Teams (IMTs) deliver vital leadership by overseeing planning, operations, logistics, and other core functions for an efficient response.

Although some organizations shift internal staff to these roles, this approach frequently interrupts ongoing priorities and heightens burnout risks. Extended events further necessitate rotation schedules and extra resources to sustain effectiveness without depleting in-house teams. Most importantly, being able to staff-up provides the force-multiplier so that communities can stay ahead of the response operational needs and proactively manage the recovery phase of the disaster. ISC's IMT solutions empower your organization to manage crises effectively, while safeguarding internal resources and preserving institutional expertise.

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.

Community recovery success starts during the initial response. Effective response allows communities to proactively manage the recovery phase, ensuring they can capitalize on the opportunity to break the disaster cycle.



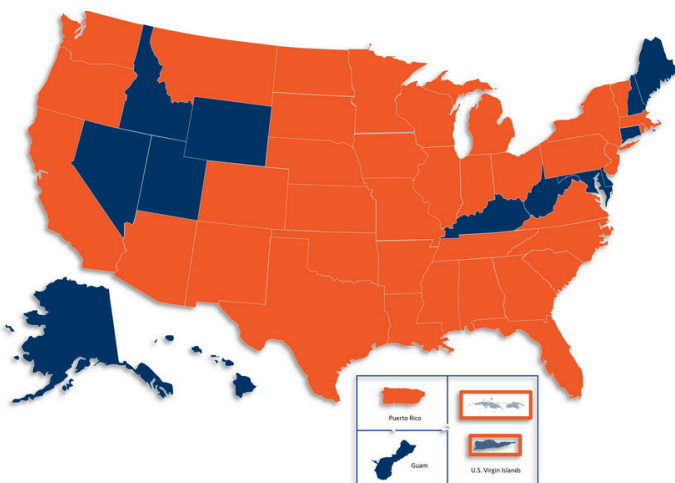
ABOUT US

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.



Unparalleled Experience of Success

Over the past three decades, ISC has responded to over 200 Presidential disaster declarations ranging from natural disasters to acts of terrorism, augmenting staffing resources for local, state and federal governments. ISC has provided professional disaster technical services in support of the statutory authorities of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act under the National Response Framework (NRF).



Our Experience by Disaster Type			
	101 Floods		37 Tropical Storms
	31 Landslides & Mudslides		73 Hurricanes
	51 Severe Storms		11 Earthquakes/Tsunami
	41 Tornadoes		51 Wildfires
	23 Winter Storms		3 Severe Droughts
	5 Terrorism / Man-Made Hazards		3 Public Health Events Covid, Ebola, H1N1

States ISC has supported over the past 3 decades of service

From providing staffing surge for Emergency Operations Centers to conducting immediate needs and damage assessments to preparing After-Action Reports, ISC has been honored to have served a pivotal role to our client's disaster response and recovery successes in over forty states.



ISC | EOC Response Support Services

Leaders in EOC Response Support

ISC brings decades of hands-on expertise to Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), deploying thousands of technical staff to support large-scale disaster operations under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and the National Response Framework (NRF). Our professionals integrate seamlessly into the Incident Command Structure (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), providing rapid mobilization for FEMA, state, and local partners during nationally declared disasters.



Demonstrated Expertise

- **EOC Coordination:** From hands-on real-world experience to serving as a go-to contractor for EOC and All-Hazards Incident Management Team Train-the-Trainers, our response team is experienced and qualified.
- **Incident Management Teams (IMTs):** Rapid mobilization and integration of expert personnel to lead or augment planning, operations, logistics, and finance sections, ensuring coordinated response without exhausting internal resources.
- **Reporting and Data-Driven Insights:** Expertise in real-time reporting, damage assessments, cost documentation, and performance metrics to support informed decision-making and maximize federal reimbursement.
- **EOC Interface Software:** Deliver expert knowledge of EOC software platforms used by command centers to coordinate real-time emergency response operations and resource coordination and develop custom solutions for streamlined operations, reporting, and compliance.
- **Planning, Policy and Program Management:** Operational strategies, situational awareness reporting, gap analysis, integration of response and recovery activities, Stafford Act policy support, and incorporating best practices from after-action reviews.
- **Program Gap Analysis & Optimization:** Identifying vulnerabilities, enhancing situational awareness.
- **Specialized Response Capabilities:** Public health emergencies, mass care, crisis communications, debris management, damage assessments, disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation.

Services Provided

- 24/7 Deployment for Surge Staffing and Rotational Support
- EOC Assessment and Optimization
- Damage Assessments
- Coordination and Compliance
- Continuity of Essential Services and Operations
- Disaster Recovery Support
- Post-Disaster Mitigation Technical Assistance
- Disaster Management Technology Solutions
- Geographic Information System (GIS) Response Support
- After-Action Reporting
- Flexible Technical Services as Needed

Experience & Success

Flooding & Landslides EOC Surge Staffing

- **Client** | Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- **Successes**
 - Mobilized w/in 24 hrs.
 - WebEOC Financial Dashboards
 - Municipality Response & Recovery Liaison

COVID EOC Bi-State Response Support

- **Clients** | Chicago, Cook County, Milwaukee County
- **Successes**
 - Rapid Mobilization w/in 8 hrs.
 - Vaccination Operations Center
 - EOC Planning Section Support
 - Fatality Management Ops.
 - Temporary Morgue Plan
 - Alternative Housing Center
 - PIO Vaccination Messaging

Hurricane Response Ops Support

- **Clients** | Sarasota, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Various Universities
- **Successes**
 - Rapid Mobilization within 1 hour of storm
 - Storm Recovery Call Centers
 - Evacuee Assistance Coordination
 - Preliminary Damage Assessments
 - Emergency Debris Removal Oversight
 - Temporary Shelter & Housing Assistance
 - Disaster Recovery Operations
 - Emergency Cost Recovery Procedures
 - EOC Training

National & International Response Ops Optimization

- **Events** | 2011 Japan Earthquake Tsunami, Hurricane Maria, Chilean Earthquake
- **Successes**
 - Strategies to optimize response coordination

ISC | EOC Disaster Recovery Support Services

Recovery Knowledge, Expertise & Performance

Our experience and expertise in disaster recovery and emergency management have taught us that securing every eligible dollar of disaster assistance is very important; however, it does not stop there. Disaster recovery operations are complex, involving a multitude of stakeholders that must make uninformed decisions that serve in the best interest of the community and its people. Disaster recovery does not happen overnight but not properly managing one stage to the next will jeopardize disaster assistance funding, cause unnecessary delays with important recovery projects, and create frustration and discontent with residents.



To ensure disaster recovery success, communities must initiate disaster recovery activities immediately upon the onset of the disaster and take proactive measures to manage its success.

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

Technical Capabilities

- Community Disaster Recovery Planning & Program Support
- Disaster Cost Recovery Management
- Disaster Damage Assessments & Forensics
- Disaster Sheltering & Housing Operations
- Debris Monitoring & Oversight
- Disaster Recovery Grant Administration
- Disaster Recovery Monitoring & Compliance
- Disaster Assistance Audits, Appeals, & Arbitrations

Expertise & Performance



3+ Decades of Unparalleled Disaster Recovery Experience



121 Disaster Declarations Supported



\$120+ Billion in Disaster Assistance Grants



30,000 Recovery Projects Obligated



20+ Billion in Hazard Mitigation Projects Identified & Implemented



Zero in De-Obligated Funds or Adverse Audit Findings



7,000- Communities Supported

ISC Approach is Different & Proven

- We work together with our clients to create and establish governance and programmatic procedures that will help track disaster assistance funding, manage recovery projects, expedite the community disaster recovery process, and instill standards that will elevate the community's resiliency for the future.
- We thoroughly identify and document disaster damages and provide alternatives for disaster recovery.
- We alert our clients to the pitfalls and challenges of federal disaster assistance programs and provide proactive solutions that serve the best interest of the community.