

What is Disaster Recovery?

A roadmap back to a strong community after a natural disaster

Disaster recovery is planning **before** a disaster, and planning and implementation **after** a disaster, to:

- Adequately shelter survivors, both in the interim and long-term.
- Restore health, social, and community services.
- Ensure infrastructure support for all community functions.
- Restore economic and community prosperity.

The Intention of Recovery

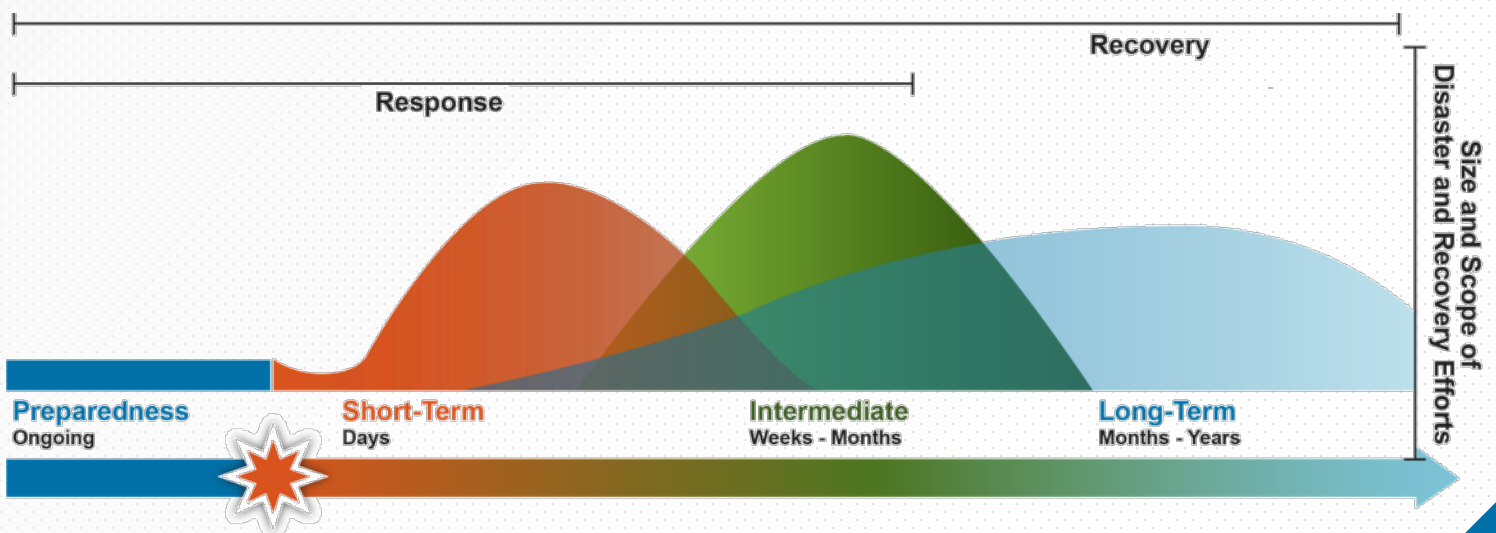
The aim of recovery is to restore the community to its previous state — or better.

- **Before** a disaster, communities can plan and implement projects to be more resilient.
- **After** a disaster, communities must plan and implement projects to restore services and community well-being.

Recovery succeeds if the *whole community* gets involved in planning, prioritizing, and implementing projects.

Recovery Timeline

The transition from response to recovery happens in waves depending on the complexity of issues inherent to any disaster. Recovery activities occur both before and while immediate emergency actions are ongoing; however, an orchestrated recovery effort can only begin after the lasting impacts of an incident are known. Recovery has three timeframes—short-term, intermediate, and long-term — which include issues, decisions, and projects well beyond immediate needs such as rescue.



Above: Recovery Continuum from the National Disaster Recovery Framework

Recovery Planning and Recovery Framework: What's the difference?

Recovery *Planning* involves activities designed to improve a community's ability to manage recovery from a specific incident.

A *Recovery Framework* is broader, guiding both pre-disaster planning and post-disaster recovery for all incident-types by outlining governance structures and determining community priorities to use resources effectively, efficiently, and equitably.

Recovery Support Organization

Successful recovery from a disaster requires an organizational structure for coordination among stakeholders that facilitates problem solving, improves access to resources, and integrates principles of resilience, sustainability, and mitigation throughout all stages of recovery.

The Portland Metropolitan Region Recovery Framework Project is using seven Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) as components of this organizational structure within the five-county Portland Metropolitan Region. These will provide the structure to advance recovery planning and implement recovery activities after a disaster to best meet local and regional needs.

The Seven Recovery Support Functions

Community Planning and Capacity Building	Unifies and coordinates expertise and assistance programs between both governmental as well as non-government partners to ensure engagement of the whole community in planning and managing recovery.
Land Use and Redevelopment Planning	Guides physical development following an incident to determine how and where to build, rebuild, vacate, and which areas to preserve.
Economic Recovery	Helps levels of government and the private sector sustain or rebuild businesses and employment.
Health and Social Services	Supports recovery in public health, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential social services.
Housing	Coordinates resources for adequate, affordable, equitable, and accessible housing to support the whole community.
Infrastructure Systems	Helps restore infrastructure systems and services, and improves resilience for future hazards.
Natural and Cultural Resources	Works to protect and restore natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

Want to Learn More About Recovery?

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