

# FEMA ISSUES U.S. NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK REWRITE SUPPORTED BY EIS COUNCIL, CREATING A NEW CROSS-SECTOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has just released two game-changing policy documents which were developed with the assistance of the EIS Council team led by former Assistant Defense Secretary Dr. Paul Stockton. These documents incorporate recommendations from EIS EPRO Handbooks and make sweeping improvements to the nation's approach to emergencies.

The first is "[NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK, FOURTH EDITION](#)."<sup>1</sup> This new edition of the NRF focuses on building preparedness for catastrophic, Black Sky hazards, and goes far beyond previous editions in advancing the cross-sector resilience initiatives that the EIS Council has pioneered over the past decade.

In particular, the NRF adopts the recommendation in the Council's EPRO Handbook III, and creates, for the first time, a new Emergency Support Function (ESF)<sup>2</sup> designed to establish a specific, robust cross-sector coordination capability for the private sector and their government partners.

The second document, "[Emergency Support Function 14 – Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure Annex](#),"<sup>3</sup> lays out the detailed principles and organizational responsibilities needed to strengthen preparedness for cascading infrastructure failures, and target private and public sector response operations so they will be of greatest benefit for public safety and national security.

Avi Schnurr, CEO of EIS Council, notes that "the issuance of these foundational two documents marks an enormous step forward. However, our work has just begun. In the months and years to come, EIS Council looks forward to helping FEMA and its partners implement these initiatives, and meet the enormous resilience challenges facing the United States and its international partners."

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<sup>1</sup> The National Response Framework (NRF) guides how the nation responds to all disasters and emergencies. <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117791>

<sup>2</sup> FEMA'S EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) ANNEXES: "The ESFs provide the structure for coordinating Federal interagency support for a Federal response to an incident." <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25512>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1572358162675-d2c7af34a5b5063e582ae1798b038351/ESF14AnnexFINAL508c\\_20191028.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1572358162675-d2c7af34a5b5063e582ae1798b038351/ESF14AnnexFINAL508c_20191028.pdf)