FiSAC

Fire Safety Asia Conference
Singapore 2014

Fire Safety & Emergency Management: The Way Forward

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Hurricane Sandy: Cascading Effects and the Impact on Emergency Responders



Our Mission:

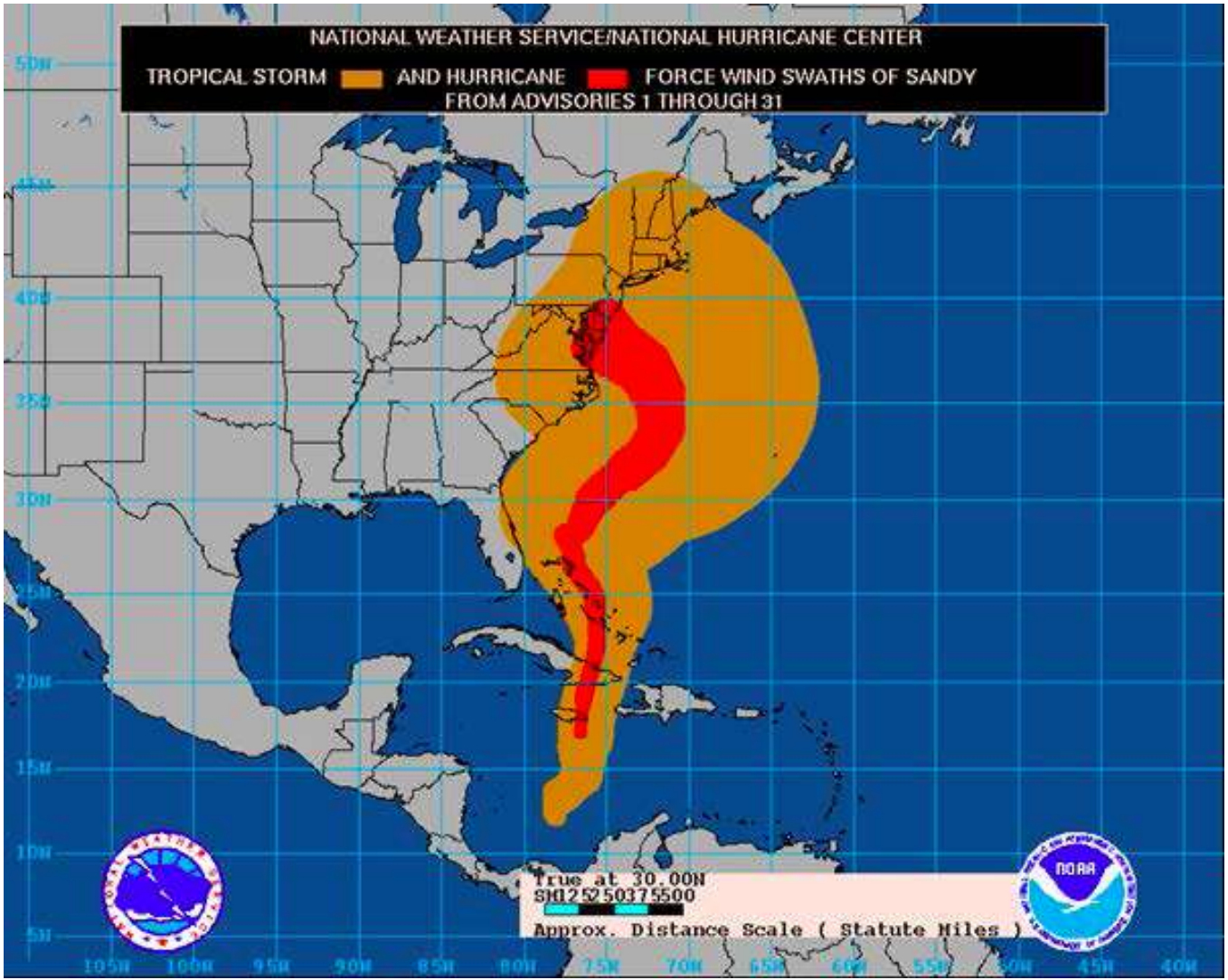
To reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes & standards, research, training and education.

Hurricane Sandy



- October 2012; affected 24 U.S. states
- Second costliest hurricane in U.S. history
- Massive storm surge caused severe damage and flooding on the New Jersey shore, the New York City metropolitan region and Long Island.
- Long-term power outages and disruption to the regional transportation system.
- Tremendous impact on critical services: government, health care, energy, food, and the regional economy.



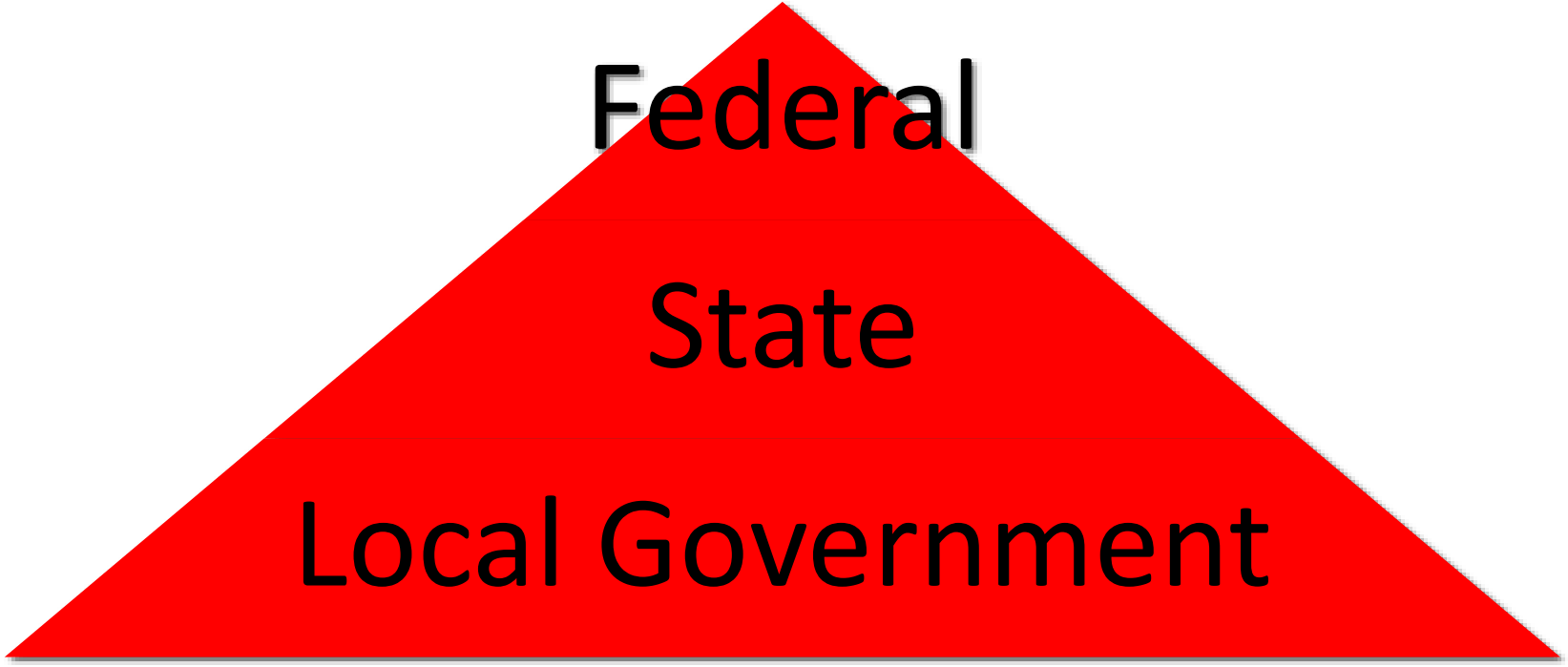

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
TROPICAL STORM AND HURRICANE FORCE WIND SWATHS OF SANDY
FROM ADVISORIES 1 THROUGH 31
True at 30.00N
SM 25 50 375 500
Approx. Distance Scale (Statute Miles)
NOAA

Today's discussion:

- Overview of the U.S. emergency management structure
- U.S. policy shifts: protection vs. resilience
- Lessons learned and overarching challenges
- The role of standards in disaster resilience



Emergency Management in the US



Local Government Responsibilities







State Responsibilities







Federal Responsibilities



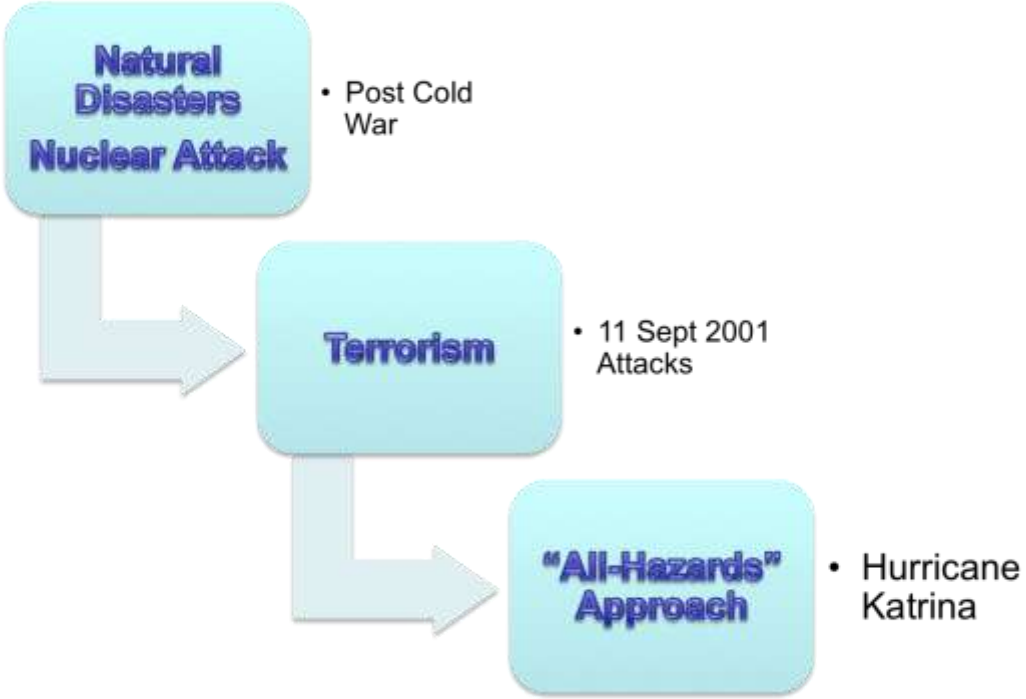


National Incident Management System (NIMS)

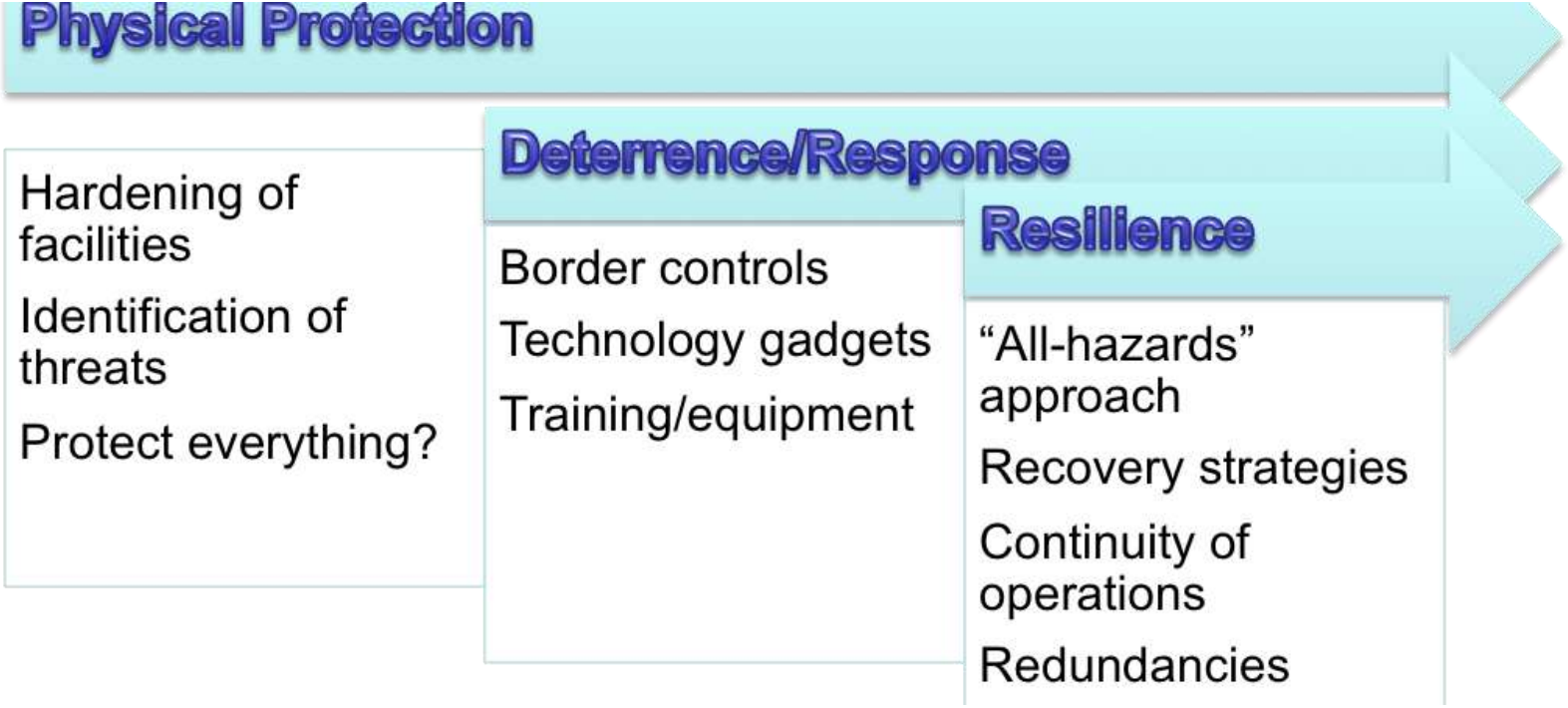
- Systemic process for managing all types of emergency incidents
- Establishes command structure and span of control
- Functional responsibilities
- Scalable



US Policy Changes



U.S. Approach to Risk



Resilience



The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.

- Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 21

“All Hazards” Approach

- Natural or man-made incidents
- Impact of the event is the same, no matter what the cause is
- Same resources are used for planning, response and recovery
- Predictability may vary

Storm surge flooding



Wind damage



Health care system

- New York City lost 10% of its hospital bed capacity
- 3 days to rescue 4000 nursing home patients & 1500 adult home residents
- Entire hospital system severely strained





Major conflagration



Energy supply disruptions



Public transit system failure



Unusual rescue events





Long term event

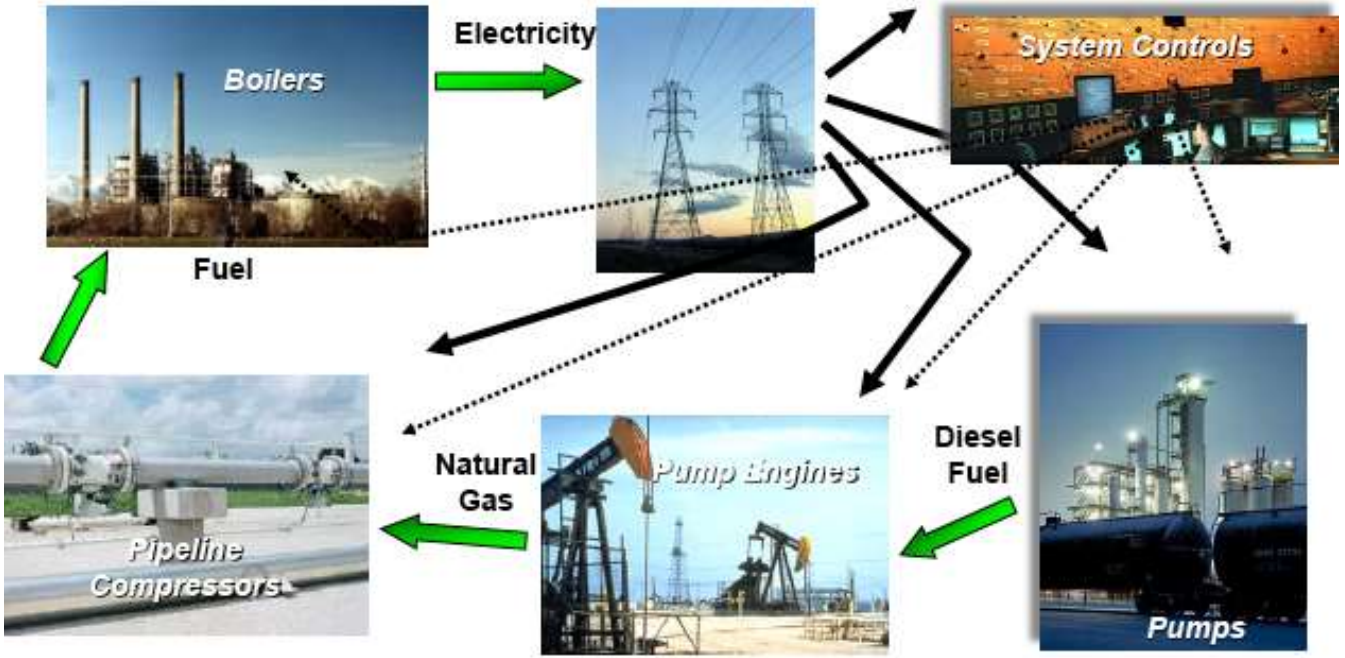
- Impact on first responders and their families
- Emergency power for public safety facilities
- Fuel supplies
- Food
- Transportation network
- Impact on tourism
- Impact on regional economy



Overarching challenges



Understanding interdependencies



Communications/situational awareness





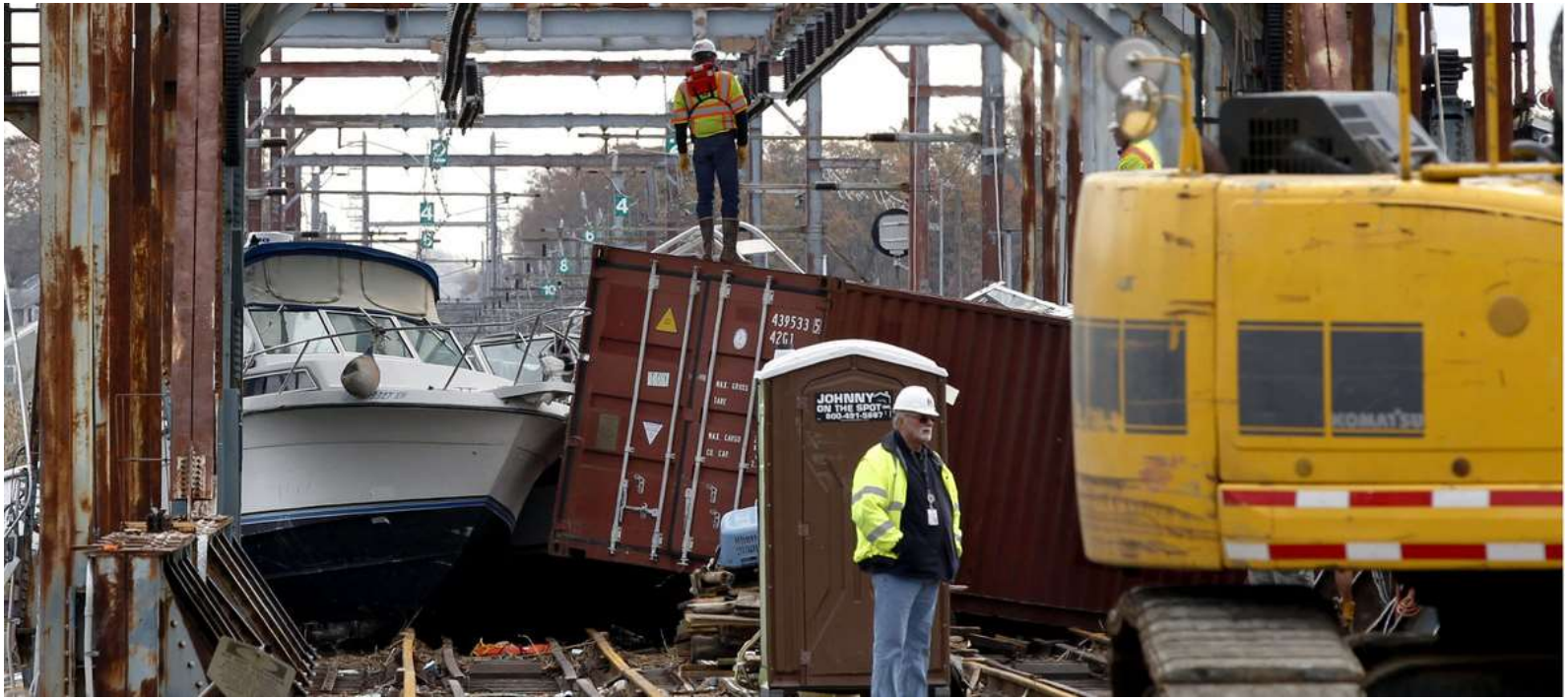
Impact of climate change



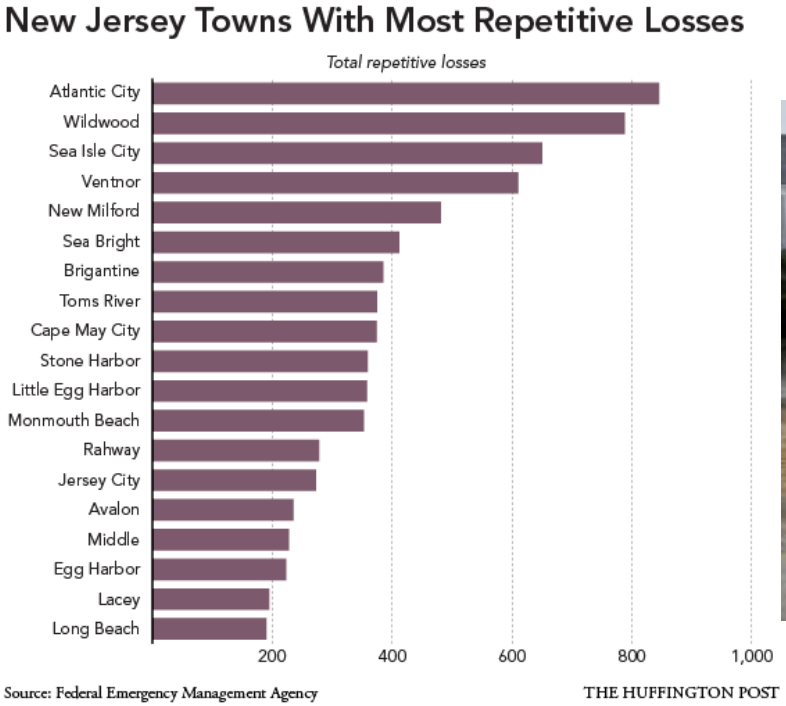
Private sector preparedness



Faster recovery strategies



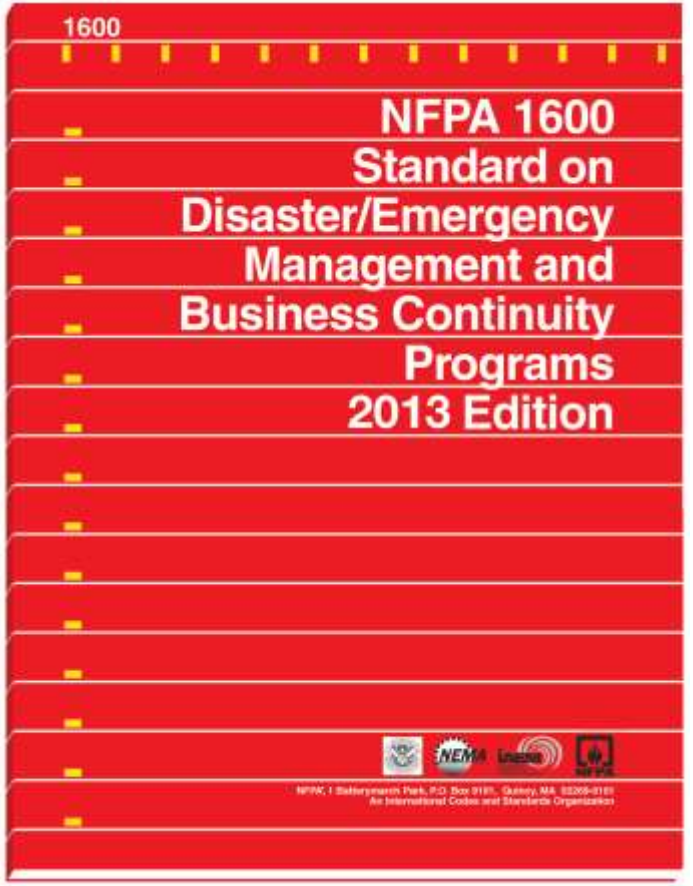
Mitigating future events






CODES & STANDARDS
TRAINING
EDUCATION
RESEARCH
NFPA

- Resiliency concepts
- Preparedness
- Building codes
- Hazardous processes
- Electrical safety
- Fire department operations
- Fire service professional qualifications



Thank you!



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