The 5 Phases of Emergency Management
Approved Definitions

https://training.fema.gov/programs/emischool/el361toolkit/glossary.htm

Glossary

**Prevention**: Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring.

Prevention involves actions to protect lives and property. Examples include: Cyberbullying prevention, pandemic influenza sanitation measures, building access control procedures, security systems and cameras, etc.

**Mitigation**: Includes activities to reduce the loss of life and property from natural and/or human-caused disasters by avoiding or lessening the impact of a disaster and providing value to the public by creating safer communities.

Mitigation seeks to fix the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. These activities or actions, in most cases, will have a long-term sustained effect. Examples: Structural changes to buildings, elevating utilities, bracing and locking chemical cabinets, properly mounting lighting fixtures, ceiling systems, cutting vegetation to reduce wildland fires, etc.

**Preparedness**: A continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response.

Within the National Incident Management System (NIMS), preparedness focuses on the following elements: planning, procedures and protocols, training and exercises, personnel qualification and certification, and equipment certification. Examples: Conducting drills, preparing homework packages to allow continuity of learning if school closures are necessary, etc.

**Response**: Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident.

Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes. As indicated by the situation, response activities include applying intelligence and other information to lessen the effects or consequences of an incident; increased security operations; continuing investigations into nature and source of the threat; ongoing public health and agricultural surveillance and testing processes; immunizations, isolation, or quarantine; and specific law enforcement operations aimed at preemitting, interfering, or disrupting illegal activity, and apprehending actual perpetrators and bringing them to justice. Examples: Lockdown, shelter-in-place, evacuation of students, search and rescue operations, fire suppression, etc.

**Recovery**: Encompasses both short-term and long-term efforts for the rebuilding and revitalization of affected communities.

Examples: Short-term recovery focuses on crisis counseling and restoration of lifelines such as water and electric supply, and critical facilities. Long-term recovery includes more permanent rebuilding.