

A Time of Change and Navigating to Strengthen Community Resilience

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Key Insights...



- **Increasing complexity and decreasing predictability**
- **Cascading events and interdependencies**
- **Unavoidable resource constraints**
- **Challenges from both acute and chronic issues**

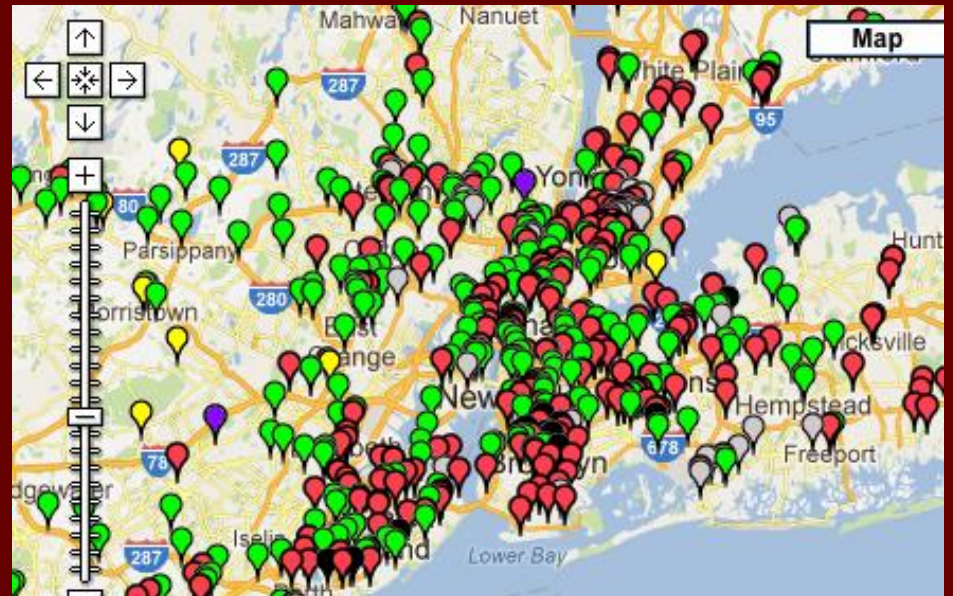
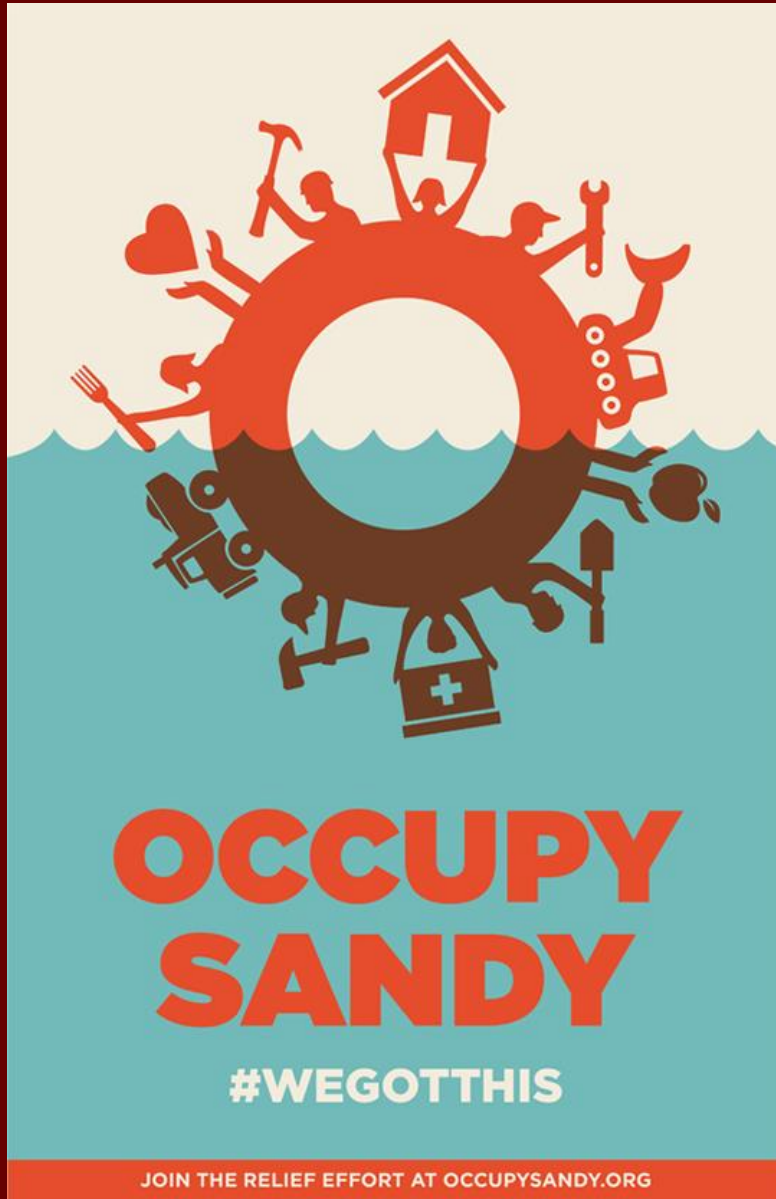
How we assess and understand risk must change

...and Implications

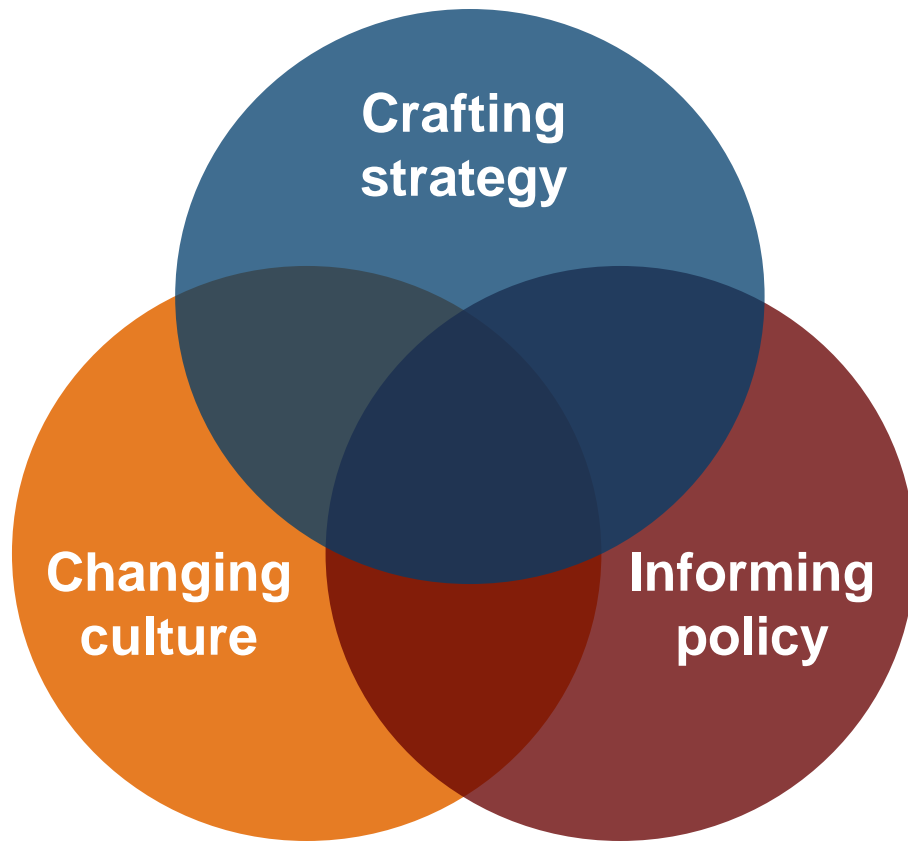


- The composition and character of communities and vulnerability will likely change over time, ***but so will the composition and character of their resilience***
- The **means** and **methods** for delivering emergency and disaster services will continue to shift, with new **tools** and **opportunities**
- Trust between the government and the public must be **strengthened**

Hurricane Sandy 2012



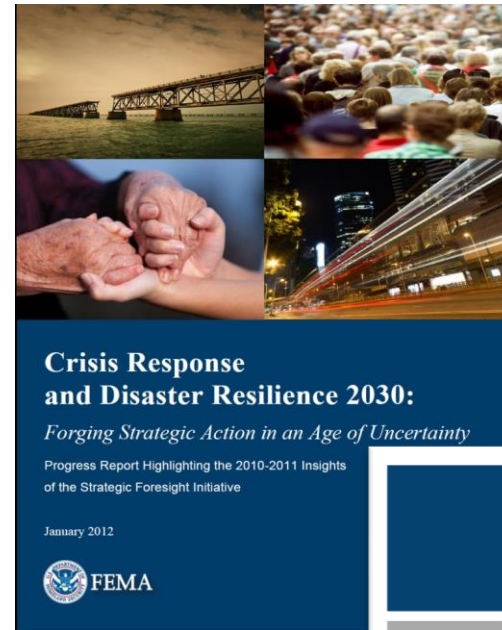
Putting Foresight into Practice



Expand and Share Research

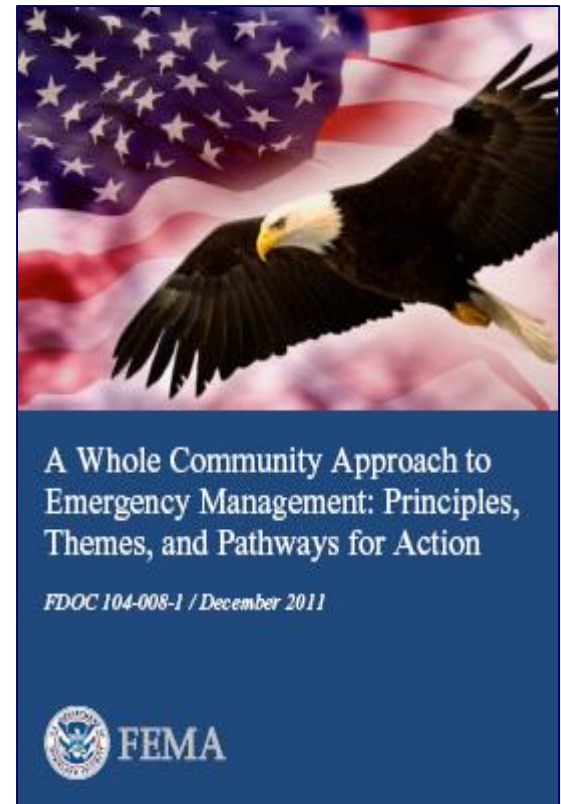
Align Strategies

Engage Stakeholders



FEMA promotes resilience through the Whole Community approach

- Understand and meet the actual needs of the *whole* community
- Engage and empower all parts of the community (public, private, and civic) in defining those needs and providing ways to meet them
- Strengthen what works well in communities on a daily basis to improve resilience and emergency management outcomes



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Simple Truths

- These are societal, not governmental challenges
- Public citizens tend to be the first responders
- Communities that recover successfully drive their own recovery
- Disaster management is a social process
- The threat/hazard is just one variable in equation

We must embrace these truths if we wish to build resilience



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Pathways for Action

- *“Understand community DNA”* – Learn how communities’ social activity is organized and needs are met under ‘normal’ conditions
- *“Plan for real”* – Plan for what communities will really need should a severe event occur (not for the capabilities we have)
- *“Meet people where they are”* – Connect the social, economic, and political structures of daily life to emergency management programs
- *“Let public participation lead”* – Enable the public to lead, not follow, in identifying priorities, organizing support, and evaluating outcomes
- *“Build trust through participation”* – Collaborating with community leaders to solve problems for non-emergency activities builds relationships and trust
- *“Create space at the table”* – Engage with the processes that govern local residents under normal conditions
- *“Strengthen social infrastructure”* – Align emergency management activities to support the institutions, assets, and networks that people turn to to solve problems on a daily basis

Value Proposition

A community centric approach for emergency management that focuses on strengthening/adapting what works well in communities on a daily basis offers a more effective path to building societal security and resilience



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Select Key Actions

1. Developing a campaign for active and sustained citizen participation in preparedness and resilience
2. Advancing a national dialogue and building a body of knowledge related to resilience
3. Launched a Community Resilience Innovation Challenge
4. Collaborating across DHS to develop a community resilience system
5. Building partnerships with the private sector, faith-based community and others to improve resilience
6. Established a foresight capability to explore and to work through the implications of key future issues, trends and other factors
7. Building FEMA's capacity to learn and innovate



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Resilience and FEMA

“Our challenge is to build the capacity of American society to be resilient in the face of disasters and other crises. In this context, individuals, families, and communities must be able to withstand disruption, absorb or tolerate disturbance, act effectively in a crisis, adapt to changing conditions, and grow stronger over time.”

--2010 FEMA Administrator's Intent



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