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826 NGOs when possible.

### 827 ***Federal Response and Assistance Available Without a Stafford Act Declaration***

828 The NRF covers the full range of complex and constantly changing requirements in anticipation of,  
829 or in response to, threats or actual incidents, including terrorist attacks and major disasters. In  
830 addition to Stafford Act support, the NRF or other supplementary or complementary operational  
831 plans may be applied to respond or provide other forms of support.

### 832 **Federal Departments and Agencies Acting Under Their Own Authorities**

833 Immediate lifesaving assistance to states, as well as other types of assistance, such as wildland  
834 firefighting support or response to an agricultural disease incident, are performed by Federal  
835 departments or agencies under their own authorities and funding or through reciprocal mutual  
836 assistance agreements and do not require a Stafford Act declaration. Some Federal departments or  
837 agencies conduct or may lead Federal response actions under their own authorities using funding  
838 sources other than the President’s Disaster Relief Fund. For example, specific trust funds are  
839 established under Federal environmental laws to support and fund oil and hazardous substances  
840 response operations.

### 841 **Federal-to-Federal Support**

842 Federal departments and agencies may execute interagency or intra-agency reimbursable agreements  
843 in accordance with the Economy Act or other applicable authorities. The Financial Management  
844 Support Annex<sup>30</sup> to the NRF contains information about this process. A Federal department or  
845 agency responding to an incident under its own authorities may also request support from DHS in  
846 obtaining and coordinating additional Federal assistance. DHS may activate one or more ESFs to  
847 provide the requested support.

## 848 **Coordinating Structures and Integration**

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849 Scalable, flexible, and adaptable coordinating structures are essential to align the key roles and  
850 responsibilities to deliver the Response mission area’s core capabilities. The flexibility of such  
851 structures helps ensure that communities across the country can organize response efforts to address  
852 a variety of risks based on their unique needs, capabilities, demographics, governing structures, and  
853 non-traditional partners. The NRF is not based on a one-size-fits-all organizational construct, but  
854 instead acknowledges the concept of tiered response which emphasizes that response to incidents  
855 should be handled at the lowest jurisdictional level capable of handling the mission. These structures  
856 can be partially or fully implemented in the context of a threat, in anticipation of a significant event,  
857 or in response to an incident. Selective implementation allows for a scaled response, delivery of the  
858 exact resources that are needed, and a level of coordination appropriate to each incident.

859 Coordinating structures aid preparedness and response at all levels of government and within the  
860 private sector, communities, and non-governmental entities. The structures help organize and  
861 measure the whole community’s capabilities in order to address the requirements of the Response  
862 mission area, facilitate problem solving, improve access to response resources, and foster  
863 coordination prior to and following an incident.

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<sup>30</sup> Annexes to the NRF are available on the NRF Resource Center ([www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf)).











































1391 frequently as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security. FEMA is the executive agent for  
1392 management and maintenance of the NRF and coordinates this work closely with the Office of the  
1393 Secretary of Homeland Security. FEMA is responsible for coordinating proposed modifications to  
1394 the NRF with all appropriate stakeholders. The Secretary of Homeland Security is the final approver  
1395 of changes to the NRF and its annexes.

1396 The reviews will consider lessons learned and best practices identified during exercises and  
1397 responses to actual incidents as well as pertinent new technologies. Updates to the NRF Annexes  
1398 may occur independently from reviews of the base document.

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