

DISASTER RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK
75% Draft for San Diego, CA Workshop
11 February 2015
Glossary

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List of Terms and Acronyms and their Definitions

Term/Acronym	Definition
Building Clusters	A set of buildings that serve a common function such as housing, healthcare, retail, etc.
Building Disaster Resilience	Ability of a single building to adapt, withstand and recover from a natural or technological disaster
Building Resilience	Ability of a single building to adapt, withstand and recover from a disruption
Buildings	Individual structures including the equipment and contents that house people and support social institutions
Built Capital	Any mechanism, building, or technology that helps the community function. The built environment is a subset.
Built Environment	All buildings and infrastructure systems. Also referred to as physical infrastructure
Business Continuity	Ability of a single business to maintain function
Business Disaster Resilience	Ability of a single business to adapt, withstand and recover from a natural or technological disaster
Business Resilience	Ability of a single business to adapt, withstand and recover from a disruption
Communication and information Systems	Equipment and systems that facilitate distant communication
Community	People who live, work, learn, and/or play together under the jurisdiction of a governance structure, such as a town, city, county, region, state, nation
Community Disaster Resilience	The ability of a community's social institutions to recover from a natural, technological or human caused disruption
Community Leaders	Elected officials, paid staff, non-government organizations, and volunteers
Community Resilience	The ability of a community's social institutions to recover from any disruption
Community Social Institutions	A complex, organized pattern of beliefs and behavior that meets basic individual and household needs
Critical facilities	Buildings that support functions that are needed during the short term phase after a hazard event. These are also referred to as essential buildings.
Critical Infrastructure	Assets, networks, systems and structures, whether physical or virtual, that support community social institutions so vitally that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety.
Disaster	Any hazard event that causes significant damage and/or loss of functionality
Disaster Resilience	The ability to adapt to, withstand, and recover from a natural, technological or human caused disruption

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Term/Acronym	Definition
Disruption	The occurrence of a hazard event
Element Resilience	Ability of an individual element to adapt, withstand and recover from any disruption
Emergency Responders	Official and volunteer workers during the short term phase after the disaster
Energy Systems	Electric power, liquid fuel and natural gas generation and distribution
Financial Capital	Any economic resource measured in terms of money used by communities buy what they need to provide their services
Function	A specific action or activity performed to support a community's social institution.
Functionality	Able to continue to use the system or structure at possibly an impaired level. This is also referred to as serviceability.
Governance Structures	The organizational framework of the governing body of the community
Hazard	A situation that poses a level of threat to life, health, property, or environment due to nature, technology, or human caused
Hazard Event	The occurrence of a hazard
Hazard Intensity	The quantification of the impact of a hazard
Hazard Level	The quantification of the size of a hazard
Human Caused Disaster	A hazard event caused by a deliberate action including a terrorist activity
Infrastructure	Physical networks, systems and structures that support community social institutions including transportation, energy, communications, and water and wastewater.
Infrastructure Disaster Resilience	Ability of the infrastructure to adapt, withstand, and recover from natural or technological disaster
Infrastructure Resilience	Ability of the infrastructure to adapt, withstand, and recover from a disruption
Interdependencies	Intersection of systems at points of dependence to continue full service
Life Safety	Alive, able to exit without assistance or remain in a stable environment
Mitigation	Improving the infrastructure by reconstruction, repair, or retrofit
Natural Disaster	A disaster that is rooted in nature
Performance Goals	Metrics that define the safety and usability of systems and structures in terms of occupant protection, cost of restoration and time allotted for repairs and return to function.
Performance Levels	Metrics that define the safety and usability of systems and structures.
Recovery Strategies	Actionable steps taken before the disaster to improve disaster resilience; includes recovery planning, land use planning, physical construction, retrofit reconstruction and education.
Redirecting	Softening or eliminating a hazard when possible by changing its path

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Term/Acronym	Definition
Redundancy	Multiple systems or buildings that perform the same function
Resilience	The ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions
Resilience Construction Standards	Codes and standards that include transparent performance expectations
Retrofitting	Improve the expected performance of existing infrastructure through reconstruction. This is also referred to as hardening.
Robustness	Sufficient strength to withstand the hazard without loss of function
Shelter-in-place	Able to safely remain in a residence with possible damage and impaired utility services
Social Capital	The links, shared values and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so work together.
Technological Disaster	A human caused disaster due to an accident
Transportation Systems	Buildings, structures, and networks that move people and goods
Vulnerable populations	People who require special assistance during recovery
Waste Water Systems	Collection, treatment, and discharge of waste water
Water Systems	Collection, storage, purification, and distribution of water
Workforce	People who provide labor to one or more of the social institutions