

loss of life and property and protect nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards.

As we know, disasters are terrible. They can rob people of the basic necessities of life-things like food, shelter, health or a way to earn a living. In several minutes disasters can devastate an entire community. A disaster can strike anytime and anywhere. It takes many forms - a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a flood, a fire, etc. It hits suddenly, without warning. Every year millions of people face terrifying consequences of disasters.

There is much that can be done to prevent or reduce the impact of disasters, the loss and suffering. One of the measures is to manage emergencies.

This function is the responsibility of FEMA. FEMA works to reduce risks, strengthen support systems, help people and their communities to prepare for and cope with disasters regardless of the cause. To carry out these tasks FEMA has developed an emergency management program providing mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Federal Response Program and Strategic Plan for the future have been developed by FEMA too. Besides, it developed individual and public assistance programs. Individual programs assist people and businesses in case of a disaster. Public assistance programs help state and local governments and organizations to liquidate the effects of emergencies.