

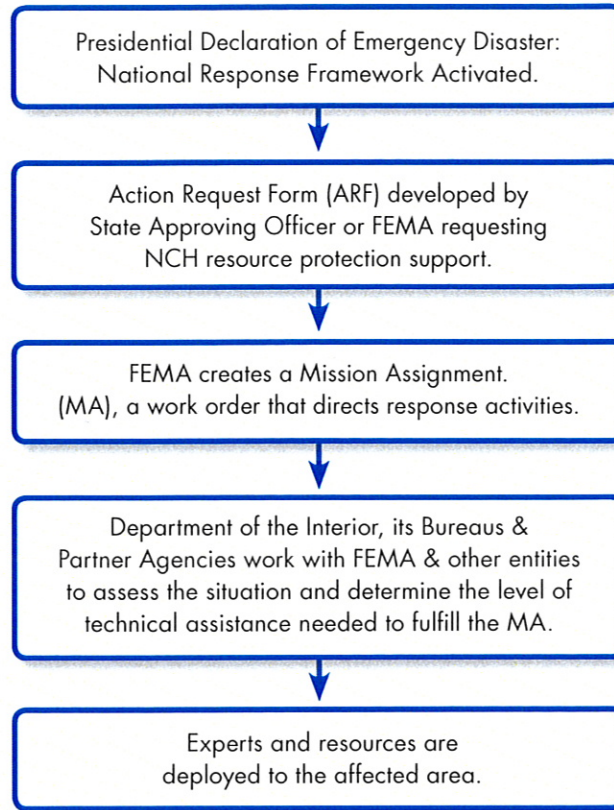
## Examples of possible assistance offered by ESF #11

### Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH):

- Create and maintain Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps and provide Global Positioning Systems (GPS) support and training.
- Stabilize and restore damaged shorelines and riparian banks to re-establish habitat and prevent erosion and subsequent damage to natural resources.
- Conduct condition assessments and produce preservation plans for historic sites and structures.
- Provide Incident Management Teams to identify NCH resources and assist in protection of NCH resources and response and recovery actions.
- Coordinate the stabilization of historic structures, cultural resources and archaeological sites. Arrange for removal and provide initial stabilization for museum and archival collections.
- Assist in emergency compliance with relevant federal environmental laws during emergency response activities, such as consultation under the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable laws.
- Offer technical assistance with the recovery of both paper and digital state and local records.



Biological Survey of swan nesting sites. (Yukon Flats NWR, FWS)



### For further information contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Phone: (202) 208-3301  
[www.DOI.gov/ProtectNCH/](http://www.DOI.gov/ProtectNCH/)

## Protecting America's Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) During Disasters



Historic carriage house damaged by Hurricane Katrina before and after stabilization, Chalmette, LA. (NPS)

### Supporting the National Response Framework Emergency Support Function #11 NCH

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
The National Archives & Records Administration  
Heritage Emergency National Task Force



## Purpose

The National Response Framework (NRF) establishes a comprehensive approach to domestic incident response. Within the NRF, federal response is organized into Emergency Support Functions. This allows a coordinated federal response to incidents of national significance, major disasters and emergencies. ESF #11 NCH is responsible for providing support to protect, conserve, preserve, rehabilitate, recover and restore natural and cultural resources and historic properties (NCH resources).

## Preparedness

Identify NCH resources that might be impacted by an incident of national significance, major disaster or emergency. Develop plans on how to prevent or minimize damage to those same resources. Participate in exercises to prepare personnel for future incidents. Create and maintain GIS maps and metadata.

## Prevention

The implementation of the emergency plan and procedures developed to best prevent damage to, respond to, and aid in the recovery of the affected areas.

## Response

Coordinate a measured response of qualified and available personnel to the affected areas to ensure that NCH resources are being protected and, if needed, properly treated in the aftermath of the disaster or incident.

## Recovery

Coordinate the available resources to support the long term recovery of NCH resources in affected communities. Provide technical guidance to help reduce the risk from future incidents of a similar nature.

Hurricane Ike Damage to Galveston, Texas. (Nancy Roberts, OSM)



Coral reef restoration (FWS)

Archaeological survey of proposed housing sites. (Ted Birkedal, NPS)



Debris removal from Chalmette National Cemetery. (Jean Lafitte NHP, NPS)

Stream & riparian damage from Mt. St. Helen's eruption. (USFS)



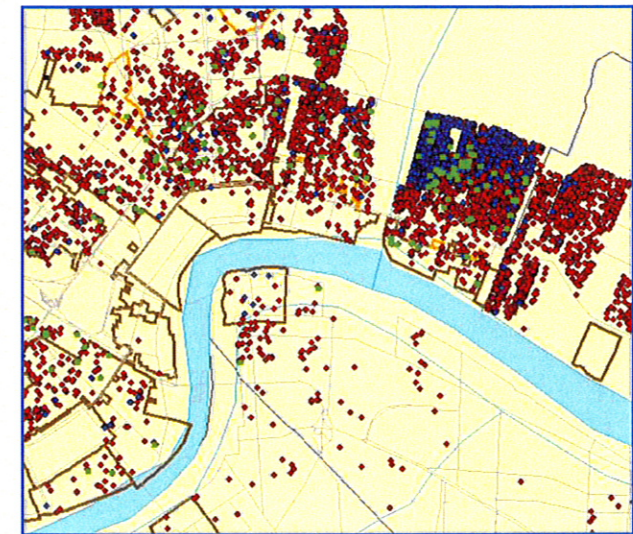
Assessment & Repair of Damaged Records following Hurricane Katrina (left credit NPS, right credit NARA)

## Definitions

**Natural Resources:** Includes terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; biological resources, including fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and migratory birds; mapping and geospatial data; geology; hydrology; including real-time water flow data; earthquakes and other natural hazards; on- and offshore minerals; energy; and coal mining.

**Cultural Resources:** Aspects of a cultural system that are valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contain significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. Tangible cultural resources are characterized as structures, archeological resources, cultural landscapes, museum collections, archival documents and photographs, sacred sites, and ethnographic resources. Also included are cultural items as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. [25 U.S.C. 3001]

**Historic Properties:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains which are related to such district, site, building, structure, or object. [16 U.S.C. 470]



GIS map of a buildings survey completed in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Red markers indicate buildings classified as "imminent threats to public health or safety." (NPS, Cultural Resource GIS Facility)