

The following table briefly describes each of these phases.

The Four Phases of Emergency Management

Mitigation Preventing future emergencies or minimizing their effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">: Includes any activities that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies.: Buying flood and fire insurance for your home is a mitigation activity.: Mitigation activities take place before and after emergencies.
Preparedness Preparing to handle an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">: Includes plans or preparations made to save lives and to help response and rescue operations.: Evacuation plans and stocking food and water are both examples of preparedness.: Preparedness activities take place before an emergency occurs.
Response Responding safely to an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">: Includes actions taken to save lives and prevent further property damage in an emergency situation. Response is putting your preparedness plans into action.: Seeking shelter from a tornado or turning off gas valves in an earthquake are both response activities.: Response activities take place during an emergency.
Recovery Recovering from an emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">: Includes actions taken to return to a normal or an even safer situation following an emergency.: Recovery includes getting financial assistance to help pay for the repairs.: Recovery activities take place after an emergency.