

# PRE-DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING: AVOIDING THE RUSH TO NORMALCY

Presented by  
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# When Does “Rush to Normalcy” Begin?

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# Highest Levels of Uncertainty and Urgency in the Response Phase

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- Response Phase
  - Focused on:
    - Human Safety



# Highest Levels of Uncertainty and Urgency in the Recovery Phase

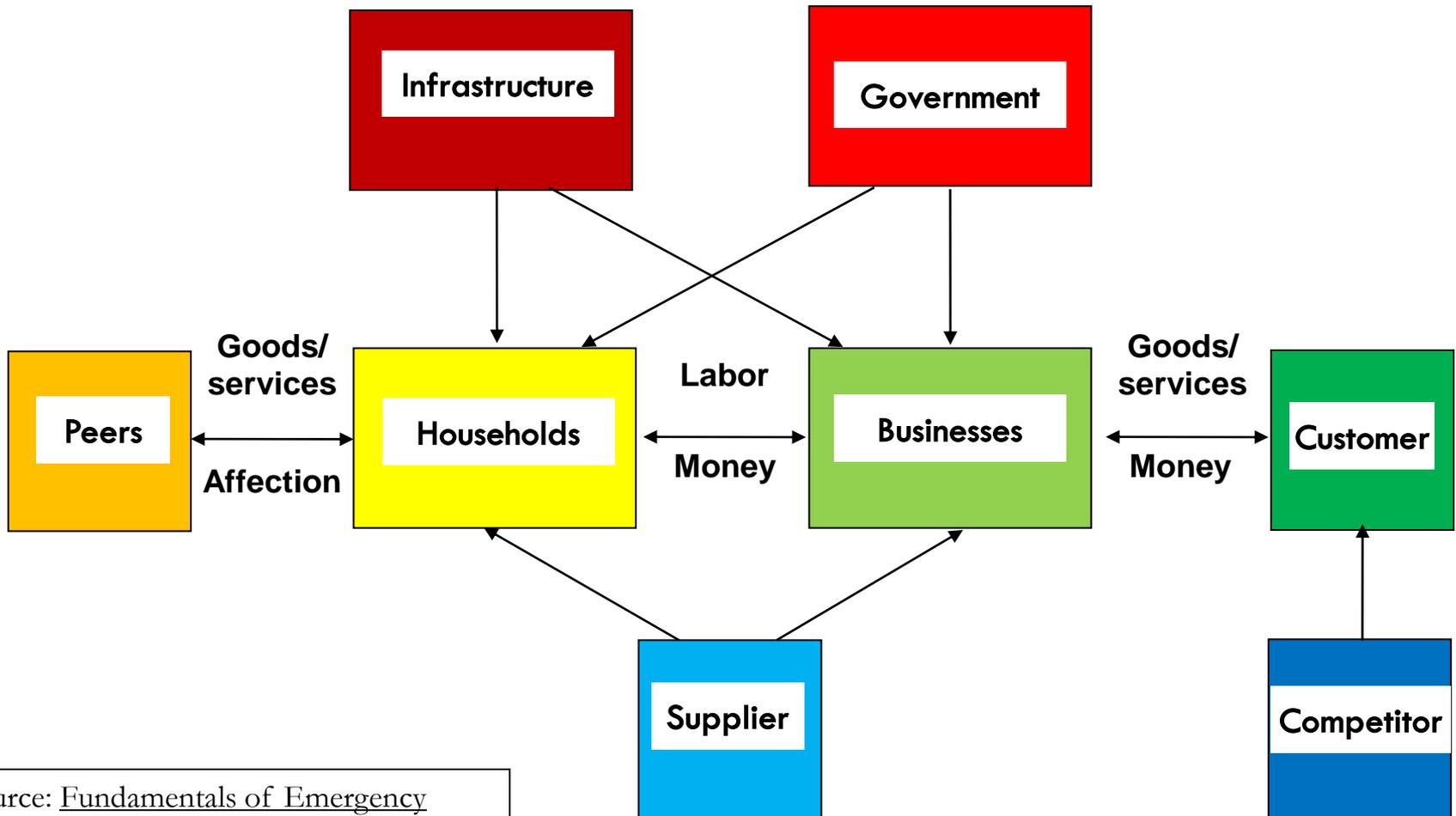
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- Recovery Phase
  - ▣ Focused on:
    - Households' and Businesses' demand to return to “normal”
    - Government's uncertainty about how to organize the community to accomplish this

# A Look at Normalcy

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Source: Fundamentals of Emergency Management

# Infrastructure

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Photo Credit: J.  
O'Connor (for MCEER)

# Government

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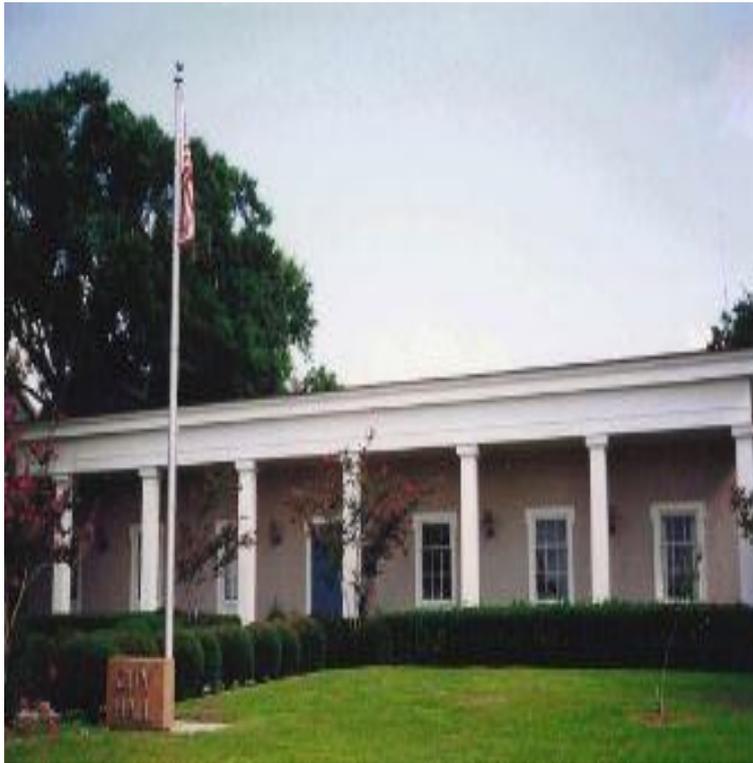


Photo Credit: NOAA

# Peers

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# Household

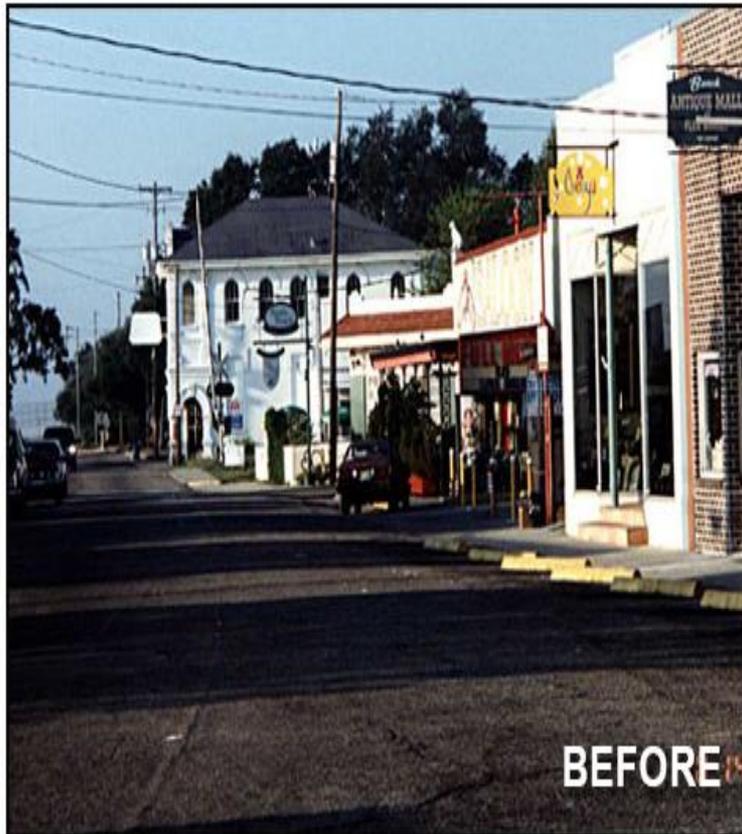
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Photo Credit:  
[spaceandculture.com](http://spaceandculture.com)

# Business

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Beach Blvd. Bay St. Louis, MS

Photo Credit: NOAA

# CHALLENGES OF RECOVERY PLANNING

# The Rush to Normalcy

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**“You Have My  
Word... You’ll Be  
Back In Your Homes  
In No Time”**



# Recovery Misconception #1

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#1 The entire recovery effort can be improvised after the emergency response is complete.

*Truth #1:*

*An effective disaster recovery requires a significant amount of data collection and planning that will delay the recovery if postponed until after the emergency response is over.*

# Recovery Misconception #2

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#2 The objective of disaster recovery should be to restore the community back to the conditions that existed before the disaster.

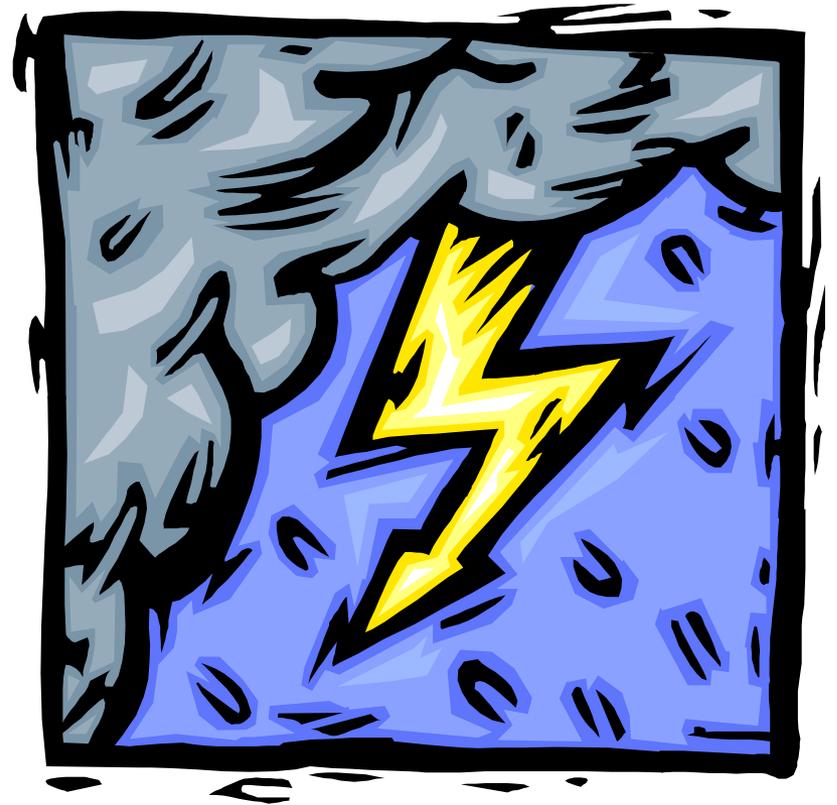
*Truth #2:*

*Simply restoring the community to its previous condition will ensure only one thing – to reproduce the community's existing disaster vulnerability.*

# Recovery Misconception #3

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- Lightning Never Strikes Twice!





# Hurricane Camille

Richelieu  
Apartments  
Pass Christian, MS  
August 1969



Richelleu apts once stood here & was wiped away by Hurricane Camille in 1969  
most occupants died here. In this exact place a Winn Dixie store was built and  
in 2005 Hurricane Katrina did the same exact thing. would you want to build here?

# Hurricane Katrina

Same Location  
after Hurricane  
Katrina (former  
Pass Christian  
Shopping Center)

# So... What is Recovery Planning?

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Restoring  
Reshaping  
Rebuilding

R  
E  
C  
O  
V  
E  
R  
Y

Physical  
Social  
Economic  
Natural  
Environment



# Why Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning?

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- Organizes community processes for more timely and efficient post-event action
- Clarifies key recovery roles and responsibilities
- Identifies potential financing
- Minimizes duplicative or conflicting efforts

(Source: Disasters by Design, Dennis S. Mileti)

# Why Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning?

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- Avoids repetition of other communities' mistakes
- Achieves greater public safety and community improvement
- *Most importantly, it can help communities “think on their feet” and thus be flexible enough to adapt their post-disaster actions to actual conditions*

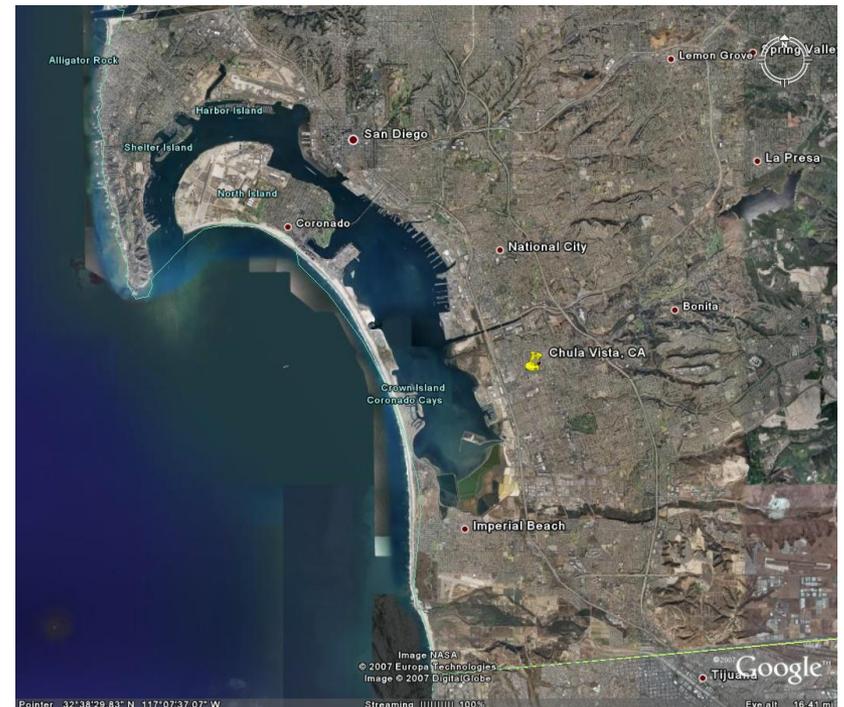
(Source: Disasters by Design, Dennis S. Mileti)

# Chula Vista, California

## Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

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- Area: 51 square miles
- Population: 210,000
- Housing Units: 60,000
- Hazards:
  - EQ
  - Flooding
  - Wildfire
- Racial Makeup:
  - 55.10% White, 49.59% Hispanic/Latino of any race



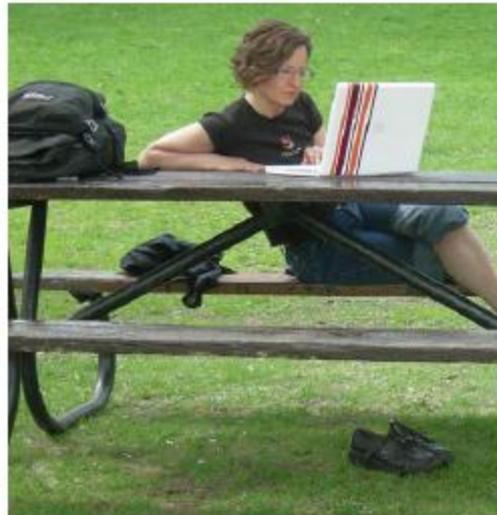
# Recovery Policy: Rehabilitation

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# Recovery Policy: Public Sector Services

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# Recovery Policy: Economic Recovery

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# Recovery Policy: Land Use and Re-Use

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Greensburg Before and After the May 4, 2007 tornado

# Recovery Policy: Psychological Rehabilitation

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“ Because disaster-affected communities can't wait... ”



# Recovery Policy: Vital Records

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## Protection



## Retention



# Recovery Policy: Inter-Jurisdictional Relationships

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- City
- Special District
- Utilities
- County
- Regional
- State
- Federal



# Recovery Task Force (Policy Group)

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- Establish/Rescind Temporary Moratoriums
- Policy Recommendations on:
  - ▣ Development Regulations
  - ▣ Construction Standards
  - ▣ Infrastructure Redevelopment
  - ▣ Hazard Mitigation Activities

# Lessons Learned: Existing Land Use Planning Processes

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- General Plan
- Zoning Ordinance
- Historic Preservation Ordinance
- Coastal Development Plans
- Redevelopment Plan
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Mitigation Plan
- Capital Improvement Plans



# Lessons Learned: Risk Knowledge

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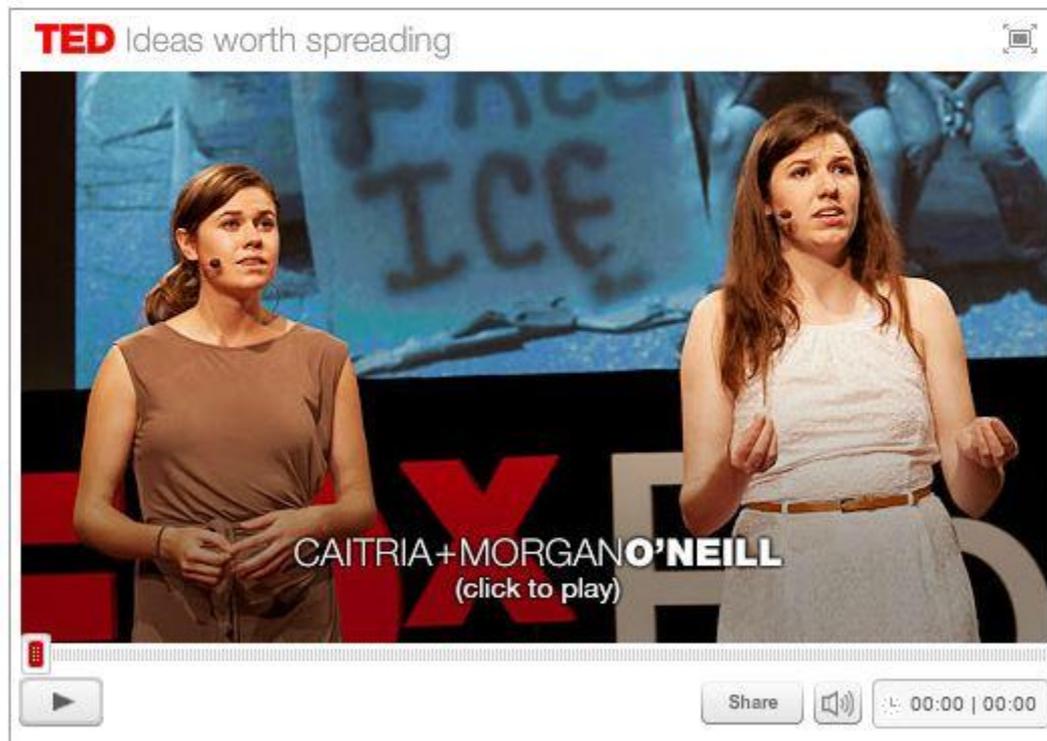
- Aerials
- Impact Maps
- Schematics
- Elevation Drawings
- Blueprints
- Models
- Field Trips
- Descriptive Reports



# Lessons Learned: Social Media

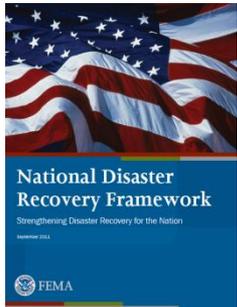
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Hit by a natural disaster? The first 6 things to do for your community's relief effort

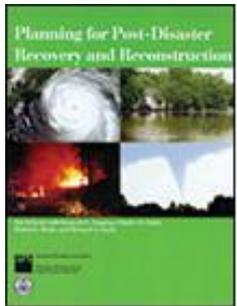


# Recovery Resources

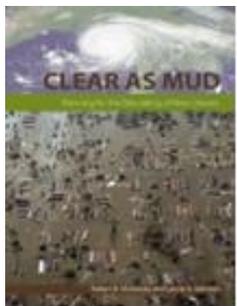
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- The National Disaster Recovery Framework, FEMA



- Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction, APA



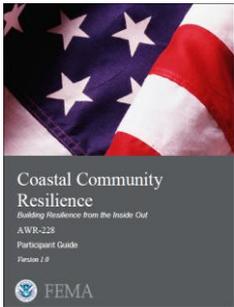
- Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans, APA

# Recovery Training Resources

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- FEMA EMI E210 “Recovery from Disaster: the Local Government Role”



- National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) “Coastal Community Resilience”

# Contact Information

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