

**Lesson Overview**

This lesson provides an introduction to the course and highlights the importance of early consideration of environmental/historic preservation issues in disaster operations and project development.

**Lesson Objectives**

At the completion of this lesson, you will be able to describe the purpose of environmental/historic preservation review in disaster operations.

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**Environmental/Historic Preservation Review and Disaster Operations****Key Points**

- FEMA, which has been incorporated into the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is the lead Federal agency for planning and preparedness for all types of peacetime radiological emergencies. In this course, we'll focus on incidents at nuclear facilities.
  - Responsibility for planning and preparedness activities within and outside the nuclear power plant boundaries is divided between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and FEMA.
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**Welcome**

Welcome to Coordinating Environmental/Historic Preservation Compliance.

This course is designed to help you navigate through environmental/historic preservation compliance issues that affect FEMA's programs. An important goal of this course is recognizing when to initiate environmental/historic preservation review for FEMA projects and activities.

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**Course Objective**

This course will show how environmental/historic preservation compliance issues are addressed in Federal, Tribal, State, and local decisionmaking during disaster operations, which include response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

Environmental/historic preservation issues must be considered early in the process in order for projects to be funded expeditiously.

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**Course Content: Module 1**

This course is divided into three main content Modules, with a fourth Module for course review and the final exam.

Module 1 provides an overview of FEMA's disaster operations and programs, activities that may trigger environmental/historic preservation review, and responsibilities in the environmental/historic preservation review process.

Module 1 lessons are:

- Course Overview
  - Disaster Operations Overview
  - Recovery Programs
  - Hazard Mitigation Programs
  - FEMA-Funded Activities
  - Responsibilities
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**Course Content: Module 2**

Module 2 introduces some of the laws and Executive orders that must be followed in the environmental/historic preservation review process, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Module 2 lessons are:

- National Environmental Policy Act
  - FEMA Exclusions Under NEPA
  - EA & EIS
  - Laws & Executive Orders:
    - Water
    - Biology
    - Pollution & Debris Mgt
    - Socioeconomics
    - Coastal Areas
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**Course Content: Module 3**

Module 3 describes historic preservation laws, including National Historic Preservation Act, and the historic preservation review process.

Module 3 lessons are:

- Historic Preservation Laws Overview
  - NHPA: Sections 106 & 110
  - Step 1: Initiate the Process
  - Step 2: Identify & Evaluate
  - Step 3: Assess Adverse Effects
  - Step 4: Resolve Adverse Effects
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**FEMA's Mission**

FEMA's mission is unique, and therefore requires a flexible and streamlined approach to environmental/historic preservation review. FEMA should always conduct environmental/historic preservation review in support of its mission and to facilitate the delivery of disaster assistance.

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**Emergencies and Environmental/Historic Preservation Compliance**

Although most environmental/historic preservation laws have specific emergency procedures (discussed in the later lessons of this course), it is important to understand that a disaster situation does not automatically exclude FEMA from its environmental/historic preservation responsibilities.

To deliver disaster assistance efficiently, FEMA must coordinate with other agencies and organizations to identify and resolve environmental/historic preservation compliance issues.

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**Lesson Summary**

You have now completed the first lesson in the Disaster Operations and FEMA Programs section of this course. You should be able to describe the purpose of environmental/historic preservation review in disaster operations.

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