



Disaster Response Law and Policy Center
ymwglobal.org

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Cycles of Disaster

How to use this chart: This chart is a general depiction of some of the issues that tend to arise in the immediate aftermath and the following months after a disaster. Every disaster and the environment in which it impacts is different. Thus, the duration of a critical issue and/ or the severity of an given issue will vary. This chart should only be used as a guideline for training and gathering potential resources.

Cycles Defined: *Phases and duration of each phase will be dependent on the magnitude and severity of the disaster.*

Emergency Response Phase - immediate aftermath, people are displaced to shelters or potentially more secure areas, focus begins on day to day survival, security, access to emergency services/ goods .

Sheltering Phase - day to day survival is still a concern. Access to emergency goods/ services becomes critical.

Critical Issues	Emergency Response		
	Emergency Response	Sheltering	Recovery
* Sexual assault: incidents, reporting, resources, consequences	X		
* Food and Water distribution in shelters/ out of shelters	X	X	
* Consumer fraud and price gouging	X	X	
* Medical care in and out of shelters	X	X	
*Resources for LGBT, sexual minorities and their families	X	X	
* Voting rights	X	X	
*Right to shelter pets	X	X	
*Security in shelters/ surrounding towns- especially with limited electricity	X	X	
*Communication deficits: logistics of receiving information regarding how to proceed. Are legal clauses preventing local TV/ radio stations from broadcasting information	X	X	
*Services/ Resources for Disabled and Elderly	X	X	X
* Domestic violence: incidents, reporting, resources, consequences	X	X	X
* Child custody	X	X	X
*Securing Rights and safety for Children	X	X	X
*Family reunification	X	X	X
*Due Process: Speedy trials, people in overnight lockup, arrested in hours before storm surge and/ or loss of power, prisoner transports to another region	X	X	X
* Contractor employment - failure to pay		X	X
* Immigration concerns in applying for benefits		X	X
* Emergency food stamps		X	X
* Emergency medical/dental/optical insurance		X	X
* Insurance coverage issues		X	X
* Housing during reconstruction - finding and paying for it		X	X
* Contractor fraud - gouging, failure to complete		X	X
* Housing during reconstruction - ordinances restricting housing options			X
*Divorce		X	X
*Child support		X	X
*Restoration of public benefits: SSI, SSDI, unemployment, etc.		X	X
*Regaining proof of identity		X	X
*Property rights: Proof of home or land ownership, restrictions to returning, secondary occupancy, rent gouging		X	X
*Loss of Job/ Fired due to circumstances of the disaster (e.g. fired for No Show to shift/ report to duty)		X	X