Disaster Recovery Project Area

Science and Technology

A COSTLY PROBLEM

Natural disasters are a significant cause of fatalities and economic loss in the United States, with recovery as the most expensive and time-consuming phase of disaster management. To improve disaster response, communities need access to new technologies that streamline and optimize disaster recovery operations and assistance programs. At the same time, state and local governments need to reduce the time necessary to restore critical functions, enable community lifelines, and most importantly, help survivors get back to their daily lives.

SOLUTION: OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Community and Infrastructure Resilience Program initiated the Disaster Recovery Project to develop new processes, products, and standards to improve operations and outcomes for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. These new processes, products, and standards will promote national preparedness objectives and protective measures, help communities prepare for catastrophic disasters, and reduce the complexity of FEMA's grant programs. In addition, this project strives to improve the ability to track and monitor post-disaster rebuild efforts and restoration functions through improved damage assessment and faster decision making to help expedite recovery operations, making them safer and more efficient.

PROJECT IMPACT

- The Disaster Recovery Project works to improve incident recovery operations and outcomes, promote national preparedness and protective measures, and reduce recovery complexities
- This project will reduce timelines and streamline assistance processes for disaster survivors and develop solutions for improved damage assessments and improved decision support

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed and implemented the First Aid for Severe Trauma (FAST) first aid training for high schools

- Implemented Next Generation Incident Command System mobile dashboard and user guide
- Delivered, demonstrated, and showcased Prototype H2Rescue Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Emergency Relief Truck
- Developed BurnPro3D and maps with links

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Fire Science and Decision Support development of operational interface for WIFIRE Edge integrated platform (Q1 FY24)
- Deployment of Search and Rescue Common Operating Platform (SARCOP Version 9) (Q1 FY24)

PERFORMERS/PARTNERS

- The American Red Cross, Washington, DC
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory, Lexington, MA
- Accelerate by Cummins, West Sacramento, CA
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Champaign, IL
- The National Alliance for Public Safety Geospatial Information Systems, Washington, DC
- University of California San Diego, CA
- FEMA, Washington, DC