

Strategies for Disaster Reduction

- Identify areas of greatest risk; focus limited resources where they can do the most good.
- Increase public awareness of vulnerability.
- Implement hazard mitigation policies and practices.
- Prepare for emergency response, recovery and reconstruction.
- Improve prediction and warning capabilities.
- Learn from previous disasters to prevent repetition of mistakes.
- Share information and experience worldwide.

What's at risk in the US?

- **Tens of millions of single and multiple family dwellings**
- **More than 5 million miles of roads, railroads and transit systems**
- **More than 5 million miles of underground pipelines for oil, gas, water, and electrical utilities**
- **Hundreds of thousands of federal, state, and private sector buildings**
- **Hundreds of thousands of schools, colleges, and universities**
- **Hundreds of thousands of factories and manufacturing facilities**
- **Hundreds of thousands of small businesses and shopping centers.....**

What's at Risk in the US? (cont.)

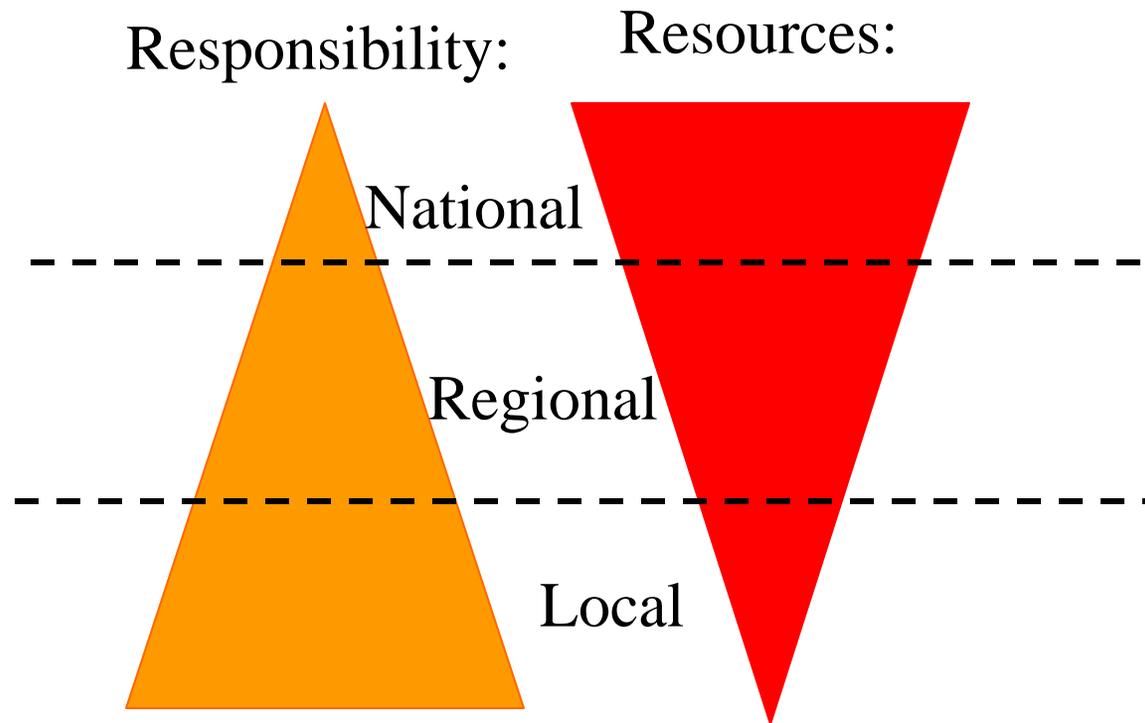
- **About 575,000 bridges**
- **Tens of thousands of civic centers and places of public assembly**
- **Tens of thousands of hospitals and health care facilities**
- **Tens of thousands of monuments, historic buildings and museums**
- **Thousands of ports and harbors**
- **Thousands of conventional power plants**
- **Thousands of military bases**
- **Thousands of airports**
- **Thousands of dams**
- **Hundreds of national forests and parks**

Disaster Phases:



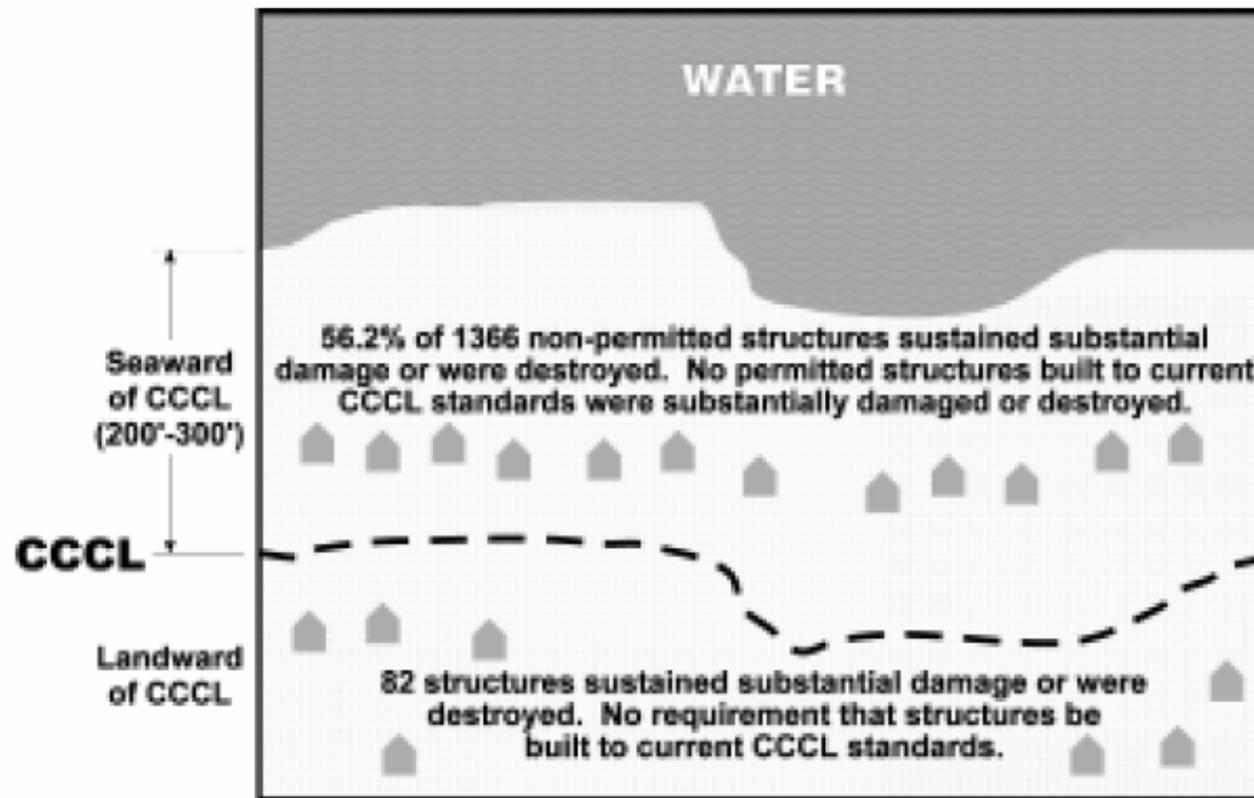
Credit: DisasterHelp.gov

Typical Imbalance between Immediate Disaster Responsibilities and Local Resources



Adapted from: Bendimerad (2002)

Map illustrating the better performance of better-designed structures in high-risk zone (during 1995 Hurricane Opal)



Credit: FEMA 294