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Obama Emergency Preparedness Directive Issued This Afternoon

The White House today released the text of President Obama's strategy for emergency preparedness this afternoon. The six-page Presidential Policy Directive, Obama's eighth, instructs federal agencies involved in disaster management to place more emphasis on determining what capabilities they have, and demands the development of emergency plans that mitigate the potential for future disasters. PPD-8 also formalizes government cooperation within the private sector, calling for closer collaboration with the private sector and for better and more effective ways for the government to communicate with communities during crises. Agencies must submit reports about how well they're prepared to handle disasters that fall under their purview. The National Security Council will review them and draw up the government's Homeland Security budget based in part on what these reviews say. The Obama directive also places significant emphasis on an "all-of-nation" "all-hazards" approach to disasters, fusing together the capabilities of federal, state, and local authorities to respond to crises. It refocuses government resources on mitigation - preventing catastrophes from getting worse - and resilience - how communities actively respond to and recover from a major disaster.

The directive, signed by President Obama last week, preserves core elements of the Bush administration's emergency preparedness plan released in 2003, but is designed to put the administration's imprint on the way the nation responds to major emergencies, including terrorism.

To view the directive, please click [here](#).

This Special Alert is an update from The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.