

## The Cycle of Emergency Management

Over the past 20 years the U.S. have developed many resources for the care of animals in disasters. However, despite much progress having been made, the recurrence of some of the issues affecting animals in disasters in the U.S. speaks volumes as to the underlying vulnerability many communities still face. In the professional emergency management community, there are many proven strategies to permanently reduce the adverse impacts of disasters on communities' infrastructures. [AnimalDisasters.com](http://AnimalDisasters.com) is dedicated to applying the principles of emergency management to the care of animals in disasters leading to sustainable improvements in animal and public health and safety.

Emergency managers recognize five phases of the emergency management lifecycle:

- Preparedness,
- Mitigation,
- Response,
- Recovery,

Each of these phases can be improved through continuous planning. Underlying the concept of continuous improvement in Emergency Management through planning is the understanding that disasters are a part of life and, therefore, all communities are always actively engaged in at least one phase of emergency management at any time. By being engaged planning provides the opportunity to improve community capacity and resilience.

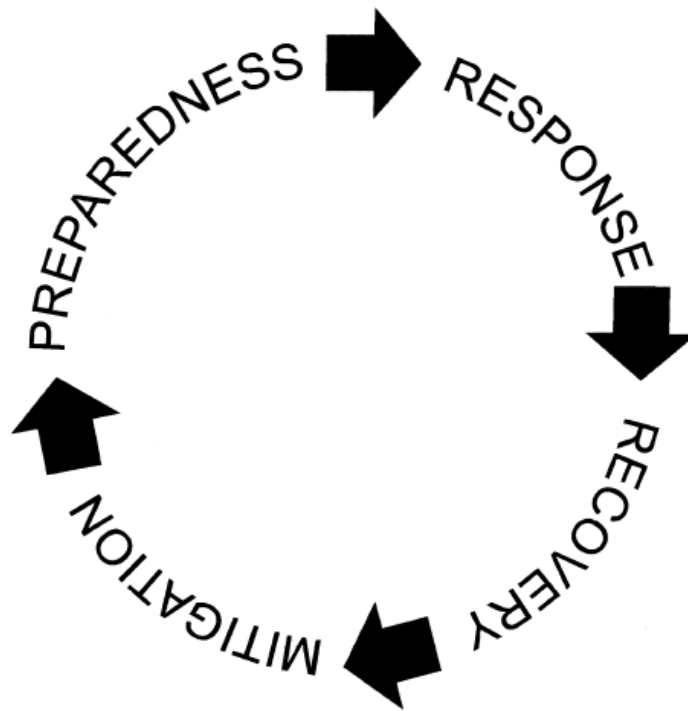


FIG. 16-1 The cycle of emergency management. (Graphic by Lisa Holeman.)