

# 2013 San Francisco Lifelines Interdependencies Tabletop Exercise



## Background

The City and County of San Francisco Lifelines Council convenes a broad range of government and private sector critical infrastructure agencies with the purpose of addressing post-disaster reconstruction and recovery through local and regional collaboration resulting in a more clear understanding of inter-system dependencies necessary to enhance planning, restoration and reconstruction.

Lifelines are utility and transportation systems and facilities that provide services that are vital to the function of urban life and are critical to our ability to recover from an earthquake or any major catastrophic event. These systems and facilities include communication, electric power, liquid fuel, natural gas, transportation, water, and wastewater.

While work is underway to better understand and deal with lifelines in the disaster response, restoration and recovery process, there are significant knowledge gaps about interdependencies between systems and their impacts on lifelines that serve San Francisco. These impacts may include damage and destruction causing prolonged service outages that will fundamentally change San Francisco, and the larger Bay Area in many ways. We need to know both how our lifelines are going to perform in a disaster as individual elements and as a system.

## San Francisco Lifelines Interdependencies Tabletop Exercise

The San Francisco Lifelines Council, with assistance from the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management and in cooperation with other key agencies, will conduct a **2.5 hour Tabletop Exercise on December 4, 2013** to focus on the interdependencies between electrical power, water and communications systems. The overall purpose of the discussion-based exercise is to illuminate and examine:

- Potential damage and disruption to interconnected infrastructures,
- Challenges that government and private sector agencies will face in restoring essential services, and
- How they will share information and collaborate in prioritizing and determining restoration actions.

Exercise objectives include:

1. **Managing System Disruptions:** Discuss what workarounds are implemented when day-to-day operations are affected by a power disruption.
2. **Affect on Other Providers:** Identify how agency workarounds impact and/or limit the re-establishment of other lifelines.
3. **Prioritizing Lifelines Restoration:** Gain a greater understanding of how lifeline re-establishment is prioritized.

Following the exercise, an analysis of the findings and lessons-learned will be conducted and an After Action Report (AAR) will be presented to the Lifelines Council in March 2014.

## Participating Agencies

Participating agencies include members of the San Francisco Lifelines Council and affiliated regional lifelines providers.

For more information about San Francisco Lifelines Interdependencies Tabletop Exercise, contact:

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