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# **NVAP Reference Guide: Emergency Response Structure**

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In the event of a major animal health emergency in the United States, the appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal governments, and their partners (such as industry) in the private sector, must respond in a coordinated, mutually supportive manner to (1) determine the nature of the disease outbreak or other emergency, (2) initiate an appropriate response (e.g., eliminate or control disease), and (3) help facilitate recovery (e.g., the resumption of business and trade).

Successful animal health emergency preparedness and response requires integration between the National Response Framework (NRF), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and the National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS). Each of these systems has a specific function in a hierarchical pattern from general to more specific.

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