

# WHAT IS RESILIENCE?

Resilience is a popular concept among municipal leaders and public utilities. But what exactly is it? And what does it take to be a resilient city?

Put simply, resilience is the ability of a city's many systems to withstand, respond to, and adapt readily to any kind of adversity, so that people living and working there can survive and thrive.



## INTEGRATED

City plans should unite systems and institutions to identify shared resources and determine how all departments will work together to achieve joint goals. Integrated city plans can address multidisciplinary issues like climate change, disaster risk reduction, and emergency response.



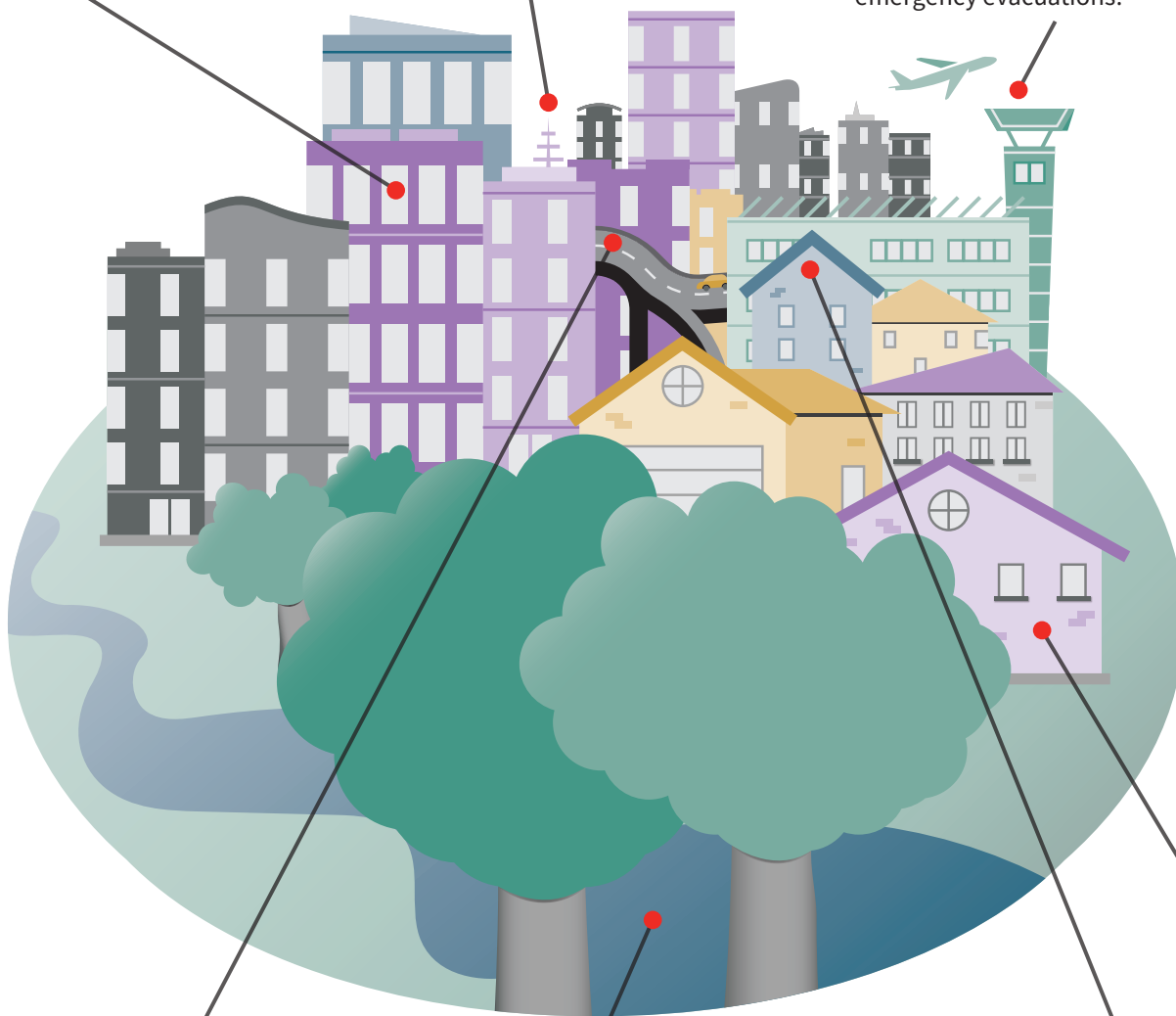
## INCLUSIVE

City systems are symbiotic, so planning can't occur in a vacuum. Bring all the right people to the table from the start to create the smartest plans with a shared sense of ownership.



## FLEXIBLE

Things change during a crisis—fast. How well you adopt alternative strategies helps determine your resilience. You can make your systems more flexible by introducing new technologies and recognizing traditional practices. For example, in times of crisis, cities may redeploy public buses for emergency evacuations.



## ROBUST

Your core infrastructure should be well-conceived, constructed, and managed with provisions to ensure failure is predictable, safe, and not disproportionate to the cause. For example, robust water systems feature protections that prevent catastrophic failure when design thresholds are exceeded.



## REDUNDANT

This is your backup plan—the spare capacity created to accommodate service disruptions. Resilience demands multiple ways to meet a given need. Redundant water systems provide multiple delivery pathways that can accommodate surges in demand or disruption to supply networks.



## REFLECTIVE

Experience is the best teacher. Recall a time when your water system or other critical infrastructure was pushed to its limits. Modify standards, behaviors, and codes in your planning based on lessons learned so you're ready to act more effectively.



## RESOURCEFUL

Plan for alternate ways of using resources during times of crisis to meet residents' needs. For example, take action now to implement more water conservation plans and explore ways to eliminate inefficiencies that contribute to waste.

## WHAT MAKES A CITY RESILIENT?

Resilient cities share seven common characteristics\* which enable them to adapt and grow in the face of challenges.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HARRIS' RISK + RESILIENCE SERVICES:

[www.WeAreHarris.com/resilience](http://www.WeAreHarris.com/resilience)

\*Source: City Resilience Framework—developed by the Rockefeller Foundation and global design firm Arup



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