Recovery

Recovery only applies if there's actually a return to something like normal, and that can happen at very different points for very different events. A power outage might resolve in an afternoon; a regional disaster might not reach this chapter for months. This page is reachable from wherever your own situation actually resolves, not fixed at the end of a fourteen-day countdown.

Re-entry safety comes before anything else

If a structure was damaged, physical safety and evidence come before cleanup, in that order. The full walkthrough, exterior checks first, gas and electrical hazards, structural red flags, then a room-by-room order once it's actually safe to go in, is covered in Safely Re-Entering a Damaged Home. Photograph and document everything before you touch it; that evidence is what the next step depends on.

Then the claims process

Insurance, FEMA assistance if you still need it, and contractor vetting, in the order that actually protects you, is covered in Filing Claims After a Disaster. Don't sign anything with a contractor who showed up uninvited before you've read that guide's fraud-pattern section.

Recovery is a new beginning, not just an ending

Closing the loop on one event is only half of what this stage is for. The other half is feeding what you just learned back into the Prepare side of this site: what actually ran out first, what you wished you'd set up in advance, what surprised you about how your household actually behaves under stress. Re-run the Household Preparedness Assessment one more time, not to confirm you're back to where you started, but to update it. The household that comes out the other side of a real event isn't the same one that went in, and the plan should reflect that rather than reset to an unchanged baseline.

Sources

- Re-entry safety and claims process: full citations on Safely Re-Entering a Damaged Home and Filing Claims After a Disaster