PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
DAMAGE REPORTING
This discussion provides information related to the damage assessment process and discusses the roles and impact of local and county government.
State verifies initial damages and, when warranted, makes request to Joint PDA.

EVENT

Local/State Damage Assessment
- Survey impacted area
- Compile information

Joint PDA
- Survey impacted area
- Compile information

Based on Joint PDA, the State will decide if they will request a disaster declaration.

State informs Region that a request will not be made.

Governor’s Office
Governor makes a request to the President through the Region.

FEMA Regional Office
- Reviews Governor’s Request and Joint PDA information.
- Prepares Regional Administrator’s Validation and Recommendation.

FEMA Headquarters
- Reviews request to determine if it is consistent with Declaration Policy & Process
- Administrator reviews Declaration Request & Regional Administrator’s Validation and Recommendation and makes recommendation

DHS
FEMA HQ coordinates w/DHS for concurrence on recommendation.

President
Determines whether or not to declare disaster
GOVERNOR’S REQUEST:

Must explain why the response to the disaster is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected tribal and local governments and why supplementary federal assistance is needed.

A new form and cover letter developed and must be used by the State.
During the crucial initial local damage assessment, responders determine:

- Incident events and extent of impact
- Hardest hit areas
- Locations that need the fastest response
- Impact to businesses, residents, and property
- Unmet needs
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
Damage assessment is defined as: “the appraisal of the effects of any disaster.”

Damage assessment is used to determine:

- Whether local resources are capable of handling the disaster
- The urgency, priority, and need for additional resources
- If a disaster declaration is required
Damage Assessment in Pennsylvania

Program Assistance Areas:

- Individual Assistance (IA)
- Public Assistance (PA)
Disaster Declaration

- Each level of declaration activated provides for additional aid to the incident
- Required when applying for aid from state and federal agencies
- Allows the lifting of certain regulatory requirements (ex. Procurement Process)
The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) authorizes the President to issue major disaster, emergency, and fire management declarations, which in turn enables federal agencies to provide assistance to state and local governments overwhelmed by emergencies, disasters, and catastrophes.
Stafford Act defines the following:

- **Major Disaster** - “any natural or man-made catastrophe” including storms, earth movements and high water and “regardless of cause, any fire, flood or explosion.

- **Emergency** - “any occasion or instance” when federal aid is needed by state or local governments to save lives property or to address the threat of a major emergency.
County Disaster Declaration

- Declaration made based on severity
- Provides additional response and recovery assets to the local jurisdiction
- Can be declared even if the local jurisdiction has not yet declared
- Each county has different internal thresholds to meet for a declaration
State Disaster Declaration

Gubernatorial Declaration

State may declare in the absence of the county or municipality

Additional response and recovery assets are made available upon declaration
State Disaster Declaration

Gubernatorial Declaration (Continued)

- No additional monies made available upon declaration
- General assistance available from various state agencies
Presidential Disaster Declaration

- Opens the availability of funding to state, county, and municipal jurisdictions

  - Individual Assistance Programs
  - Public Assistance Programs
Types of incidents that may warrant damage assessment:

- Fires
- Floods
- Wind Storm / Tornado
- Snow / Ice / Blizzards
- Earthquakes
- Hazardous Materials Spill
- Civil Unrest / Terrorism
When to do Initial damage Assessment?

* As soon as possible and practical
* A continual process, with updated assessment reports to include significant changes
PA Damage Reporting is a collaborative process that engages local, county, state, and federal agencies.
Damage Reporting:

Damage is reported at the local level to the county.

Information reported includes:
- Details of the incident
- Location of damage
- Extent of damage
- Resources needed to respond
- Situation report
Emphasis is on the overall effect of the event:

- Concentration of damages
- Trauma, deaths, injuries
- Special needs populations affected
- Critical facilities affected
- Voluntary agencies involved and their role
- Insurance
Continued:

- Economic conditions of the affected area
- Financial impact
- Mental health impact
- Available housing resources
- Primary and secondary homes affected
- Damage to and loss of Business
- Other Federal Assistance Programs (i.e. SBA, etc.)
- Impact on Non-profit Organizations
Suggested Field Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment
- Tyvek suits, cotton jumpsuits, rain gear
- Proper footwear
- Proper hand and eye protection

Recording equipment
- Digital cameras
- Laptops
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA)
Federally supported recovery program

Designed to provide supplemental assistance to state, tribal, and local governments

Federal shares of funding is 75% with a 25% non-federal match required

Grants available for:
- Emergency work
- Permanent work
DAMAGES TO PUBLIC PROPERTY

Recreation and parks
Public Utilities
Roads / Bridges
Public Buildings and Equipment including vehicles
Water Control Facilities
Water Treatment Facilities
Sewage Treatment Facilities
Private Non-Profit
Public Assistance Declaration

Based on monetary loss Via a Per capita of $3.50 per person based on the county population.

Must meet the state Per-capita as well, which is around 17.6 m. or $1.39 per resident.

(Per Capita figures as of October 2013)
Emergency Work
vs.
Permanent Work
Emergency Work

Debris Removal (Category A) - eligible removal activities include:
- Tree and wood brush
- Building wreckage
- Sand, mud, silt, and gravel
- Vehicles and other recovery-related materials

To be eligible, the debris removal must meet one of the following criteria:
- Eliminate immediate threat to life safety, public or private property preservation
- Ensure economic recovery
Emergency Work (Continued)

Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) - activities undertaken by a community prior to, during, and following a disaster. These include actions to:

- Eliminate or reduce an immediate threat to human life
- Eliminate or reduce and immediate threat of significant damage to public or private property

Common actions include:

- Search and rescue, emergency medical care, mass sheltering, security, food/water/ice provisions, temporary facilities, state or local EMC activations
Permanent Work

Roads and Bridges (Category C) - eligible items include:
- Surfaces, bases, shoulders, ditches, decking, piers, girders, abutments, slope protection
- Only repairs to disaster-related damage are deemed eligible

Water Control facilities (Category D) - eligible items includes:
- Dams, reservoirs, levees, drainage channels, pumping facilities, irrigations facilities
Permanent Work (Continued)

Buildings and Equipment (Category E) - include content, utility systems, consumables, and debris removal

Consideration may be given to any existing insurance policies prior to funding.

If damaged greater than 50%, authority is given to FEMA to replace with a pre-disaster capability structure.

Utilities (Category F)

Water treatment plant and delivery systems, power generation, and sewage collection systems
Permanent Work (Continued)

Parks, Recreation, and Other Areas including (Category G):

- Playground equipment, swimming pools, bathing houses, tennis courts, docks and piers, picnic and gold areas

- Per capita per county + Commonwealth
  $17,656,307 as of OCT 1, 2013
Six Steps of Public Assistance

**Step one**

- Local emergency management conducts a windshield survey
  - Provides an estimate of damage totals
  - Needs to meet threshold of loss

- Data collected is submitted to county emergency management agency to be combined with other jurisdictions’ data
  - Per capita loss must meet state threshold

- Information is transmitted to PEMA
Six Steps of Public Assistance (Continued)

Step two

PEMA provides a review of data to determine:
- Unmet needs
- Threshold limits met

PEMA submits to the Governor a request for a Federal Declaration

FEMA / PEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment teams confirm findings through on-site assessment
Six Steps of Public Assistance (Continued)

Step three

- Presidential Declaration approved
  - Public notification of declaration and types of awards available

Step four

- PEMA arranges for an applicant briefing
  - Explanation of how the program will work
  - Invitations to all eligible agencies impacted by the event
Six Steps of Public Assistance (Continued)

Step five

- Applicant briefing followed by a kick-off meeting
- Paperwork compiled and submitted from local agencies to the state/federal government for consideration
- All documentation and supporting materials submitted prior to closeout date

Step six

- FEMA reviews final documentation and allocated funding to the state for approved reimbursements
Public Assistance Damage Assessment

Windshield survey - What is the local impact?

Conducted by local officials, includes the following information:

- Scope of damage - Size of the areas that have been impacted
- Severity of damage - Minor, Major, Destroyed
- Impact to the local jurisdiction - Impact on government functions
  - Roadways
  - Utilities
  - Buildings
  - Historic or environmental locations
FEMA 9500 Series Policy Publications:
Contains all Public Assistance Policies formatted for printing.

www.fema.gov/9500-series-policy-publications

- Debris
- Eligibility requirements
- etc.
Eligible:

- Force Account LABOR
- Equipment /hr. FEMA equipment rates
- Materials / Includes use of stock

Federally Funded Highways are not eligible under the Public Assistance Program
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QUESTIONS

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