

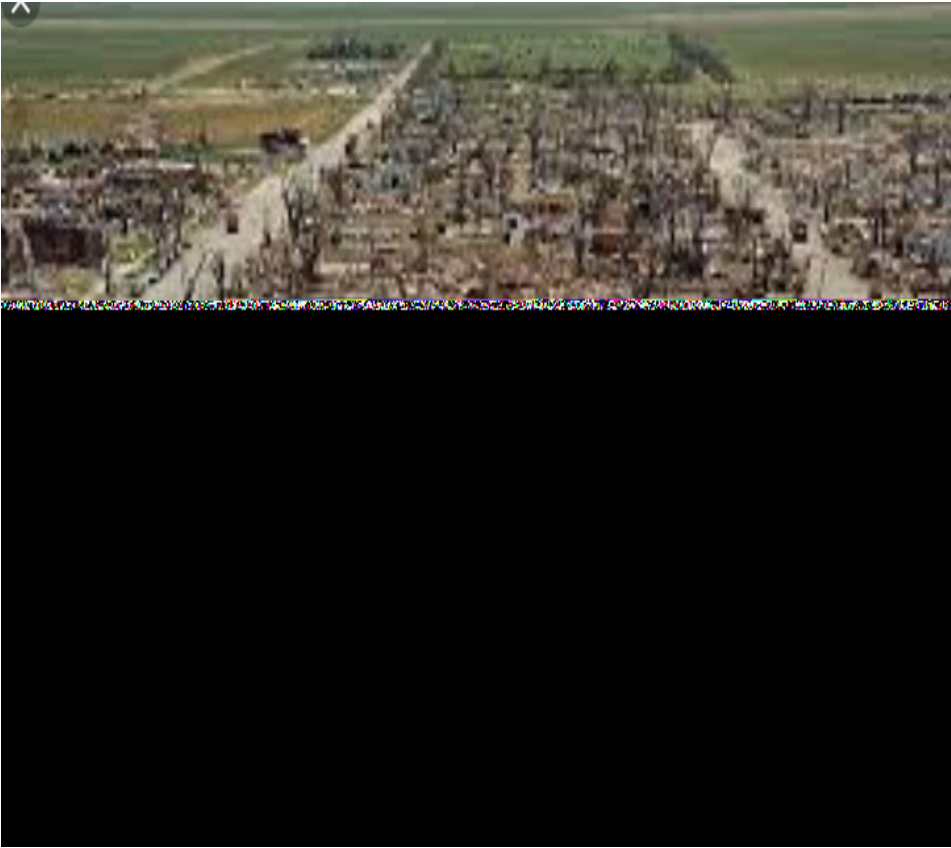
Public Assistance

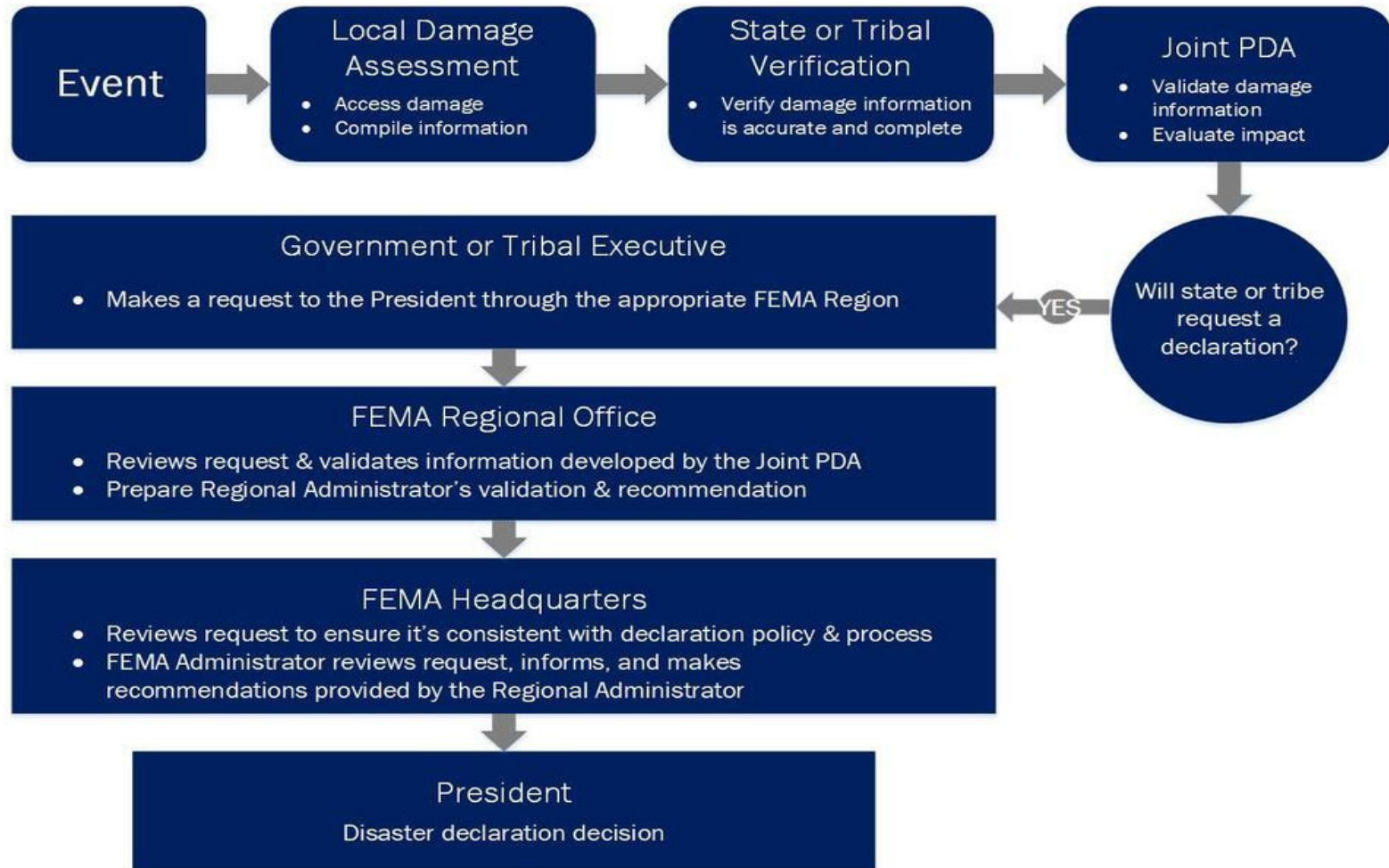
Preliminary Damage Assessment

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206.33 Preliminary damage assessment.

The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request, and by FEMA to document the recommendation made to the President in response to the Governor's request. It is in the best interest of all parties to combine State and Federal personnel resources by performing a joint PDA prior to the initiation of a Governor's request, as follows.

Damage Assessment Questionnaire

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Point of Contact Name: Click here to enter text.	Date Contacted: Click here to enter text.
County: Click here to enter text.	Jurisdiction Impacted: Click here to enter text.
Contact Phone Number: Click here to enter text.	Contact Email: Click here to enter text.
Type of Incident: Click here to enter text.	
Date(s) of Incident: Click here to enter text.	Date/Time of local EOC activation? Click here to enter text.
Date of local disaster declaration? Click here to enter text.	

DESCRIBE THE EVENT (to include weather specifics): [Click here to enter text.](#)

TYPES OF DAMAGE:

CAT A: Debris

of streets/roads with debris? [Click here to enter text.](#)

Estimated cubic yards of debris? [Click here to enter text.](#)

*Measure the piles of debris to determine Cubic Yards as follows:
(In feet) Length x Width x Height = ___ feet divided by 27 = Cubic Yards
FOR EXAMPLE: 100'x50'x10' = 50,000 Cubic Feet / 27 = 1,851 Cubic Yards*

Estimated cost to remove debris? [Click here to enter text.](#)

*TO ESTIMATE COST: Cubic Yards X the current FEMA rate for estimating debris:
\$15.00 for scattered trees and limbs OR \$19.00 for debris in a waterway
1,851 CY x \$15.00 = \$27,765 (estimated cost to remove and dispose of debris)*

CAT B: Emergency Protective Measures (Local Actions)

of evacuations required [Click here to enter text.](#)

of shelters opened [Click here to enter text.](#)

of people required sheltering [Click here to enter text.](#)

of people displaced from their homes [Click here to enter text.](#)

of people still stranded [Click here to enter text.](#)

of water rescues [Click here to enter text.](#)

Flood Control Measures activated (sandbagging, pumping, etc.) [Click here to enter text.](#)

of roads closed/traffic control required [Click here to enter text.](#)

CAT C: Roads

of bridges out/closed [Click here to enter text.](#)

Miles of roads damaged [Click here to enter text.](#)

CAT D: Water Control Facilities

residents/businesses without water [Click here to enter text.](#)

Any other malfunctioning facilities (describe) [Click here to enter text.](#)

CAT E: Public Buildings/Equipment

Were public buildings damaged? [Click here to enter text.](#)

Were vehicles or equipment damaged? [Click here to enter text.](#)

CAT F: Utilities

Have public infrastructure or essential services been affected or disrupted? [Click here to enter text.](#)

without Electricity [Click here to enter text.](#)

without Water/Sewage Treatment [Click here to enter text.](#)

without Gas service [Click here to enter text.](#)

CAT G: Parks, Recreation and Other Facilities

Debris in parks or recreation areas [Click here to enter text.](#)

Damage to parks or recreation areas [Click here to enter text.](#)

Damage to other facilities [Click here to enter text.](#)

IMPACT TO COMMUNITY: [Write a brief statement](#) below by "IMPACT STATEMENT" of how the community was impacted and include facts like:

- Red Cross or other such agencies deployed (describe services provided)
- Essential services been affected or disrupted (EMS, Police, Fire)
- Farmers unable to access fields for harvest (describe the impact)
- Number of public buildings, schools, hospitals, businesses closed
- Number of deaths, injured, evacuated, sheltered
- Describe continuing health or safety risks (hazardous materials, contaminated water supply, etc.)
- Describe extent of damage to residences and homes
- Economic or other impacts on communities

IMPACT STATEMENT (REQUIRED): [Click here to enter text.](#)

	INITIAL ESTIMATE	PDA ESTIMATE
CAT A: DEBRIS	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT C: ROADS, ETC.	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT D: WATER CONTROL FACILITIES	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT E: BUILDINGS	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT F: UTILITIES	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.
CAT G: PARKS, RECREATION AND OTHER FACILITIES	\$ Click here to enter text.	\$ Click here to enter text.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF:	
DEATHS:	Click here to enter text.
INJURIES:	Click here to enter text.
EVACUATED:	Click here to enter text.
SHELTERED:	Click here to enter text.
DISPLACED:	Click here to enter text.

Jurisdictional Population	Click here to enter text.
Non-english speaking Population	Click here to enter text.
Floodplain Population	Click here to enter text.
Average Age	Click here to enter text.
Average Income	Click here to enter text.
Jurisdictional Annual Budget	Click here to enter text.

(a) Preassessment by the State.

When an incident occurs, or is imminent, which the State official responsible for disaster operations determines may be beyond the State and local government capabilities to respond, the State will request the Regional Administrator to perform a joint FEMA-State preliminary damage assessment. It is not anticipated that all occurrences will result in the requirement for assistance; therefore, the State will be expected to verify the initial information, in some manner, before requesting the joint PDA.

b) Damage assessment teams.

Damage assessment teams will be composed of at least one representative of the Federal Government and one representative of the State. A local government representative, familiar with the extent and location of damage in his/her community, should also be included, if possible. Other State and Federal agencies, and voluntary relief organizations may also be asked to participate, as needed. It is the State's responsibility to coordinate State and local participation in the PDA and to ensure that the participants receive timely notification concerning the schedule. A FEMA official will brief team members on damage criteria, the kind of information to be collected for the particular incident, and reporting requirements.

The Preliminary Damage Assessment process is merely an attempt to determine whether or not a County has met their required threshold – the level at which the local and county jurisdictions have exceeded their ability to respond to the disaster. **It is purely an estimate.** It has to be an estimate that can be validated based on fact, but it is still an estimate.



Joint PDA field teams are intended to validate – not find – damage and impact information.

Generally, Joint PDA teams ask to start with the most heavily damaged infrastructure.

The six primary factors considered when evaluating a request for the FEMA PA program outlined in 44 CFR § 206.48 are:

1. Estimated cost of assistance
2. Insurance coverage in force
3. Programs of other Federal assistance
4. Localized impacts
5. Hazard mitigation
6. Recent multiple disasters

This set of factors represents the cornerstone of the PA damage assessment process. By outlining the information that is collected and analyzed for each factor, this section will support its development at the most local level possible and ready potential applicants for the verification and validation process undertaken by State or Tribal and Federal emergency management agencies.

Potential applicants are encouraged to photograph damage. This may expedite damage assessment verification and help potential applicants to document pre-restoration damage should a disaster be declared. For the purpose of damage assessments, photographs only need to be submitted for a representative site when multiple similar damage sites exist. It is not necessary to include photographs of all emergency protective measure work; however, photographs should be included to verify damage at sites where emergency construction is necessary (e.g. construction of an emergency roadway).

Incorporating these photographs into diagrams or maps can further illustrate the location and extent of damage and expedite decision-making.

Potential applicants should document damage dimensions, materials, and the size or capacity of damaged infrastructure.

Potential applicants are encouraged to photograph damage in order to expedite damage assessment verification and document pre-restoration damage should a disaster be declared. This is particularly important for work to be completed, as the information gathered is often critical to estimating and verifying work and cost required for restoration.

Mutual Aid Agreements

When a potential applicant requests resources from another jurisdiction through a mutual aid agreement, FEMA will consider costs incurred by the potential applicant. When a State has a statewide mutual aid agreement that designates the State as being responsible for reimbursing mutual aid costs, FEMA will consider costs incurred by the State. In either case, agreements and cost should be consistent with past practices for mutual aid.

Cost Not Considered

Costs that are not eligible for PA funding will not be considered in the calculation of the estimated cost of assistance. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- ♣ Capital improvements not required by codes and standards
- ♣ Loss of revenue
- ♣ Loss of useful service life of facilities
- ♣ Tax assessments
- ♣ Increased operating expenses (with limited exceptions for specific emergency health and safety tasks)
- ♣ General surveys to assess damage
- ♣ Cost of restoring facilities that were not in active use at the time of the disaster



Category A – Debris Removal Debris removal activities, such as clearance, removal, and disposal, will be considered during damage assessments if they do not fall under the authority of Other Federal Authorities (OFA) and the removal is in the public interest. Public interest is based on whether the work:

- ♣ Eliminates immediate threats to lives, public health, and safety;
- ♣ Eliminates immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property; or
- ♣ Ensures economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large.

The types of debris considered include, but are not limited to, vegetative debris, construction and demolition debris, sand, mud, silt, gravel, rocks, boulders, vehicle/vessel wreckage, and contaminated debris.

Removal of debris from improved public property and public right-of-ways (ROWs), including Federal-aid roads, will be considered.

If State, Tribal, or local governments authorize residents to place incident-related debris on public ROWs, FEMA will consider the cost of removing the debris from the ROWs for a limited period of time.

Removal of debris placed on the public ROW from commercial properties will **not** be considered. Removal of materials related to the construction, repair, or renovation of either residential or commercial structures will **not** be considered.

Debris removal from the following locations/areas will not be considered:

- ♣ Federally maintained navigable channels and waterways
- ♣ Flood control works under the authority of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- ♣ Agricultural land
- ♣ Natural, unimproved land, such as heavily wooded areas and unused areas



Debris removal from waterways that is necessary to eliminate the immediate threat to life, public health and safety, or improved property will be considered when not under the authority of an Other Federal Authority.

For navigable waterways this may include the removal and disposal of debris that obstructs the passage of vessels, to specific depths defined by FEMA.

For non-navigable waterways and flood control works this may include debris that obstructs or could obstruct intake structures, debris that could damage bridges, culverts, or other structures, and debris that is causing or could cause flooding to improved public or private property during the occurrence of a five-year flood.



Removal of debris in a waterway that does not meet these immediate threat criterion will not be considered, even if the debris is deposited by the incident.

All work in waterways should be noted to assist in the early identification of potential environmental requirements.

Category B – Emergency Protective Measures

Emergency Protective Measures are actions taken before, during, and after a disaster to eliminate or lessen immediate threats to life, public health, or safety, or to eliminate or lessen immediate threats of significant additional damage to improved public and private property in a cost effective manner

Category C – Roads and Bridges

Permanent Work required to restore roads (paved, gravel, and dirt), bridges, and their components to their pre-disaster design and function is considered unless the restoration falls under the authority of an OFA.

Category D – Water Control Facilities

Work done to restore publicly-owned water control facilities that do not fall under the authority of an OFA may be considered.

Water control facilities are those facilities built for the following purposes:

Channel alignment, Recreation, Navigation, Land reclamation, Irrigation, Maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat, Interior drainage, Erosion prevention, Flood control, Storm water management

Flood control works, such as levees, floodwalls, flood control channels, and water control structures generally fall under the authority of USACE or NRCS. For work to restore these facilities to be considered, it must first be confirmed that it does not fall under the authority of these OFA's

Category E – Buildings and Equipment


Work required to restore damaged buildings will be considered along with upgrades required by codes and standards. This includes all structural and non-structural components, including mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as contents, furnishing and equipment within the building.

Category F – Utilities

Work required to restore damaged utility facilities to pre-disaster design and function will be considered under Category F. This includes: Water storage facilities, treatment plants, and delivery systems, Power generation, transmission, and distribution facilities, including, but not limited to, wind turbines, generators, substations, and power lines, Natural gas transmission and distribution facilities, Sewage collection systems and treatment plants, Communication systems

Category G – Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Other

Mass Transit facilities such as Railways,
Beaches, Parks, Playground equipment, Swimming pools,
Bath houses, Tennis courts, Boat docks, Piers,
Picnic tables, Golf courses, Ball fields, Fish hatcheries,
Ports and harbors, Other facilities that do not fit in
Categories C–F



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