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# The Presidential Disaster Declaration Process



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# The Presidential Disaster Declaration Process

## Objectives

- Overview of Damage Assessment Process
- Documentation Requirements
- Request process



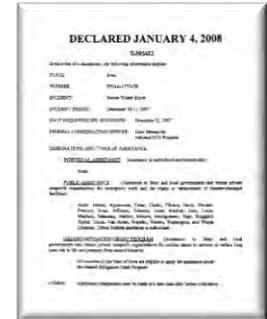
# Processing Requests for Major Disaster



**Disaster Strikes**



**Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)**



**Declaration Request**



# Processing Requests for Major Disaster

- FEMA Damage Assessment Manual
  - Published April 6, 2016
  - Includes local, state, and federal roles and responsibilities
  - Process description for Public Assistance and Individual Assistance assessments



# Processing Requests for Major Disaster

- Event
  - Local Damage Assessment
    - Gather and submit information to State
  - State or Tribal Verification
    - Confirm information complies with FEMA standards
  - Joint PDA
    - FEMA, State and local representatives validate damage assessment information
  - Governor requests disaster declaration



# Processing Requests for Major Disaster



## Evaluation Factors



# Processing Declaration Requests

## Requests for a Major Disaster Declaration

In developing a request to the President for a major disaster declaration request, FEMA will consider...

- Amount and type of damages
- Impact of damages on affected individuals and the State
- Available resources of the State and other disaster relief organizations
- Extent and type of insurance in effect to cover losses

*44 CFR 206.37(c)(1)*

*(Continued)*



# Processing Declaration Requests

## Requests for a Major Disaster Declaration

*(Continued)*

- Assistance available from other federal programs
- Imminent threats to public health and safety
- Recent disaster history
- Hazard mitigation measures previously implemented
- And other factors pertinent to the incident

*44 CFR 206.37(c)(1)*



# Primary Factors Considered for Public Assistance

**FEMA must consider six primary factors in evaluating the need for Public Assistance.**

44 CFR 206.48 (a)(1)-(6)

1. Estimated cost of assistance (*cost per capita impacts; minimum \$1 million*);
  - a) Statewide per capita impact of \$**1.43 (FFY 2017)**
  - b) Countywide per capita impact of \$**3.61 (FFY 2017)**
2. Localized impacts (*critical facilities, extraordinary concentration of damages*);
3. Insurance coverages (*in force, or should have been by law and regulation*);

(Continued)



# Primary Factors Considered for Public Assistance

**FEMA must consider six primary factors in evaluating the need for Public Assistance.**

*44 CFR 206.48 (a)(1)-(6)*

*(Continued)*

4. Hazard mitigation measures that contributed to the reduction of damages;
5. Recent multiple disasters within the prior 12 months;  
and
6. Available assistance programs from Other Federal Agencies



# Primary Factors Considered for Public Assistance

- Documenting Work and Cost
  - Category of Work
  - Labor; equipment; supplies; contracts; mutual aid
  - Maps and photos by site
  - Verification of pre-disaster condition
  - Insurance coverage
  - Program funding from Other Federal Agencies



# Primary Factors Considered for Individual Assistance

**FEMA must consider six primary factors in evaluating the need for Individual Assistance.** 44 CFR 206.48 (b)(1)-(6)

1. Concentration of damages (*such as a tornado that destroys an entire town*)
2. Trauma (*injuries, deaths, large scale disruption of services, power loss, etc.*)
3. Special populations (*low income, elderly, unique needs*)

(Continued)



# Primary Factors Considered for Individual Assistance

**FEMA must consider six primary factors in evaluating the need for Individual Assistance.** 44 CFR 206.48 (b)(1)-(6)

*(Continued)*

4. Voluntary agency assistance (*ARC, Salvation Army, others*)
5. Insurance coverage
6. Average amount of individual assistance by state (*no set thresholds....*)



# Primary Factors Considered for Individual Assistance

- Cause of Damage
- Jurisdictions impacted / concentration
- Types of homes
- Homeownership rate of impacted homes
- Percentage of affected households with insurance
- Number of homes impacted and degree of damage
- Inaccessible communities
- Special Flood Hazard Areas, sanctioned communities and other protected areas
- Primary or secondary residence



# Degree of Damage Considered for Individual Assistance

- Inaccessible: Conventionally built structures and manufactured homes
  - Inaccessible due to reasonable means (washed-out bridge, erosion, washed out)
  - Basement damage assessment methods – flooding or sewer backup in a finished basement
- Destroyed:
  - Residence is a total loss or damaged to the extent that repair is not feasible; manufactured frame is compromised



# Degree of Damage Considered for Individual Assistance

- Major:
  - Sustained significant structural damage and requires extensive repairs; manufactured displaced from foundation
- Minor:
  - Damage does to affect the structural integrity of the residence;
- Affected:
  - Minimal damage to the exterior of the home and non-essential basements



# Documenting Impact

- Fatalities, Injuries, Evacuations
- Critical Facilities and Infrastructure
- Commercial and Transportation
- Education
- Residential
- Parks
- Economic
- Agriculture
- State and Local Resources Provided



# Documenting Impact

- The unincorporated community of Freeport was under a mandatory evacuation order with an emergency shelter opened at the Stone Ridge Community Church in Decorah. 25-30 residents received little warning with floodwaters already at their doors when emergency officials arrived at 5:00 A.M.
- The City of Lansing (Allamakee) sustained damage to a 12' to 18' exposed sanitary sewer line crossing a secondary tributary.
- Decorah, Howard-Winneshiek, Riceville, New Hampton and North Winneshiek school districts called off school on August 24, 2016.



# Documenting Impact

- On August 24, the residents of Freeport were evacuated and local employer Rockwell Collins had shut down operations due to floodwaters. This meant the evacuation of 284 employees from the site.
- Salvation Army provided clean up kits in Winneshiek County
- Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT):
  - Transportation of HESCO barriers
  - Dump trucks and end loaders to help with debris removal and disposal



# Request Timelines

- 44 CFR 206.36 Requests for major disaster declarations
  - The Governor must submit the request and findings to the President through the Regional Administrator
  - Request must be submitted within **30-days** of the occurrence of the incident



# Determination by the President

**When the State requests a major disaster declaration,**

the President may issue either a major disaster, an emergency declaration, or deny the request.

**When the State requests an emergency declaration,**

the President may only grant or deny an emergency declaration.



# The Declaration

- Description of the incident type
- Incident period
- Designation of the affected geographical areas
- Designation of the Stafford Act programs available and the federal cost share
- Designation of the Federal Coordinating Officer



# If Denied

## If the request is denied...

- The Governor may appeal denial of a request for a declaration within 30 days of the date of the denial letter.
- One-time appeal to the President through the Regional Administrator
- Appeal must include additional information supporting the request.



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# Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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