

Disaster Steps

1. Local Response: All disasters begin with a local response. Local officials should actively inquire plus citizens and businesses should report property damage to the local Emergency Management Director (EMD), even if the jurisdiction is able to respond.

2. Local Government Requests

Assistance: If the local response capabilities are overwhelmed, the Local Elected Officials may request assistance, and send damage information to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

3. State Emergency Declaration:

Based on information provided by SEMA, the Governor may issue an Executive Order for a State of Emergency for specific counties. The executive order allows state agency resources to assist local governments in the disaster response.

4. Joint Damage Assessments:

The Governor may request a Federal/State Joint Damage Assessment. The Joint Damage Assessment Team is composed of SEMA, FEMA, and SBA officials who tour damaged areas with local officials. This information is collected and analyzed, and submitted to the Governor.

5. Requesting a Presidential Disaster

Declaration: If the Governor asks the President for a Major Disaster Declaration, the request is submitted through FEMA Region VII in Kansas City. The President makes the decision on the Governor's request.

Federal & SBA Disaster Assistance

- **Different Types of Federal Disaster Assistance:** If the Governor's formal disaster request is approved, there are several types of disaster assistance.

- **The Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration:** the Small Business Administration Declaration can help households and businesses with low-interest loans.

- **The U.S. Department of Agriculture Disaster Declaration:** helps farmers and agricultural producers recover from an agricultural or natural disaster. Applicants work through their local Farm Service Agency on the application process.

- **President's Disaster Declaration:** the President may declare that a major disaster or emergency exists, thus activating an array of Federal programs to assist in the response and recovery effort. Not all programs are activated for every disaster. Programs are activated based on needs found during damage assessment and any subsequent information that may be discovered.

- **Emergency Disaster Assistance:** helps declared cities and counties with emergency protective services directly related to eligible emergency protective measures, and debris removal from public property and public rights of way.



- **President's Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance:** helps individuals and households in declared counties begin the recovery process after a disaster. Individual Assistance Programs include Temporary Housing, Emergency Living Expenses, Individuals & Households Program, Minimum Essential Repairs, Disaster Unemployment, and other programs. The first step is to call the FEMA telephone registration 800 number. The second step is to complete a Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loan application. If a Family does not qualify for an SBA loan, they may receive help from the Individuals and Households Program.

- **President's Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance:** helps repair or replace damaged public facilities within a federally declared disaster area. Public assistance grants are provided on a cost-share basis with the Federal share being at least 75%. Public Assistance is divided into different types and categories: Emergency Work or Permanent Work. Emergency Work includes debris removal and emergency protective services. Permanent Work categories include: Roads and Bridges, Water Control Facilities, Buildings and Equipment, Utilities, and Parks, Recreational Facilities and Other Items.



Quick Guide To Disaster Assistance

**For More information about the
Disaster Process Contact**

**State Emergency Management
Agency (SEMA)
(573) 526-9100**

