

Purpose

At the onset of an emergency or disaster, before any federal funding is provided, the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) must determine the extent of the damages sustained by state and local public facilities. Through the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process EMD obtains the information necessary to determine if the criteria has been met to forward a request through the Governor to FEMA for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance.

The intent of the PDA process is to depict the magnitude, impact, dollar damage, and the actions that are needed to deal with and recover from the event. These efforts primarily address the repair and restoration of public facilities, infrastructure, or services which have been damaged or destroyed.

The PDA process is necessary to request federal assistance for the state and each affected county. If damage assessment information is not received when needed, we are unable to include a county's information in the initial assessment of needs for public facilities.

Assessment of Damages

In order to determine the extent of an event, state agencies and County Emergency Management Offices complete an initial assessment of the damages affected jurisdictions sustained in an impacted county. Each County Emergency Management Office coordinates the data collection for all potential applicants within their county - their jurisdictions.

Who are the Applicants / Jurisdictions?

Applicants (jurisdictions) are defined as: state agencies, all local public agencies – counties, cities, towns, public utilities (water, sewer, electrical) and other special-purpose districts to include hospital districts, school districts and fire districts, federally-recognized Indian tribes, and certain private non-profit organizations that provide essential governmental-type services.