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PDA Documentation: What Why When



Preliminary Damage Assessments

- Preliminary damage assessments are the first step towards requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- After an event causes significant damage to an area of the State, County emergency managers will reach out to potential applicants in their county to gauge the impact of the event.
- If damages have the potential to meet or exceed the established County and State damage threshold, then the State will request PDA information from all potential applicants impacted by the event.

County and State Thresholds

- PDA information monetizes damages from an event to determine whether the County and State damage thresholds have been met.
 - Thresholds are based on the Consumer Price Index and most recent census data. They are updated by FEMA every year on October 1st.
- A Presidential Disaster Declaration cannot be requested if the State damage threshold is not met.

Deadlines for Submission

- The State has 30 days from the end of an incident period to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
 - Counties typically have two weeks to compile and submit information to the State for review.
 - Potential applicants should start gathering damage documentation as soon as an event happens, so they are ready to submit information as soon as it's requested.
- All damages included in the PDA must have occurred during the established incident period. Damages that occur outside the incident period will not count towards the damage threshold.

What to Submit

- Your County Emergency Manager will provide you with the correct forms for submitting damage information.
 - There are separate forms to fill out for each category of work.
 - Categories A,B,D,E,F & G will be documented on the Damage Assessment Site Worksheet.
 - Category C will be documented on the Roads and Culverts site worksheet.
- Provide as much documentation as you can to help substantiate the dollar amount of your damages.
- Provide as many photos of damages as you can.
 - Photos should clearly show the extent of damages being claimed.

How PDA Data is Used

- The State will review and validate all submitted PDA documentation.
 - The State and FEMA may visit individual sites in person as part of the PDA validation process.
- Once County and State thresholds have been met, and PDA documentation has been validated, SDOEM will recommend that the Governor requests a Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- If a major disaster declaration is granted by the President, data collected during the PDA process can be used to formulate projects for eligible applicants of a disaster.

Have Questions?

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