



FEMA

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FEMA teams with state and local agencies to survey Imperial County earthquake damage

At the request of the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), along with county and local agencies, is carrying out Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in the earthquake damaged areas of Imperial County.

A PDA is an extensive on-the-ground survey of damage to public facilities, and is used to determine whether federal assistance from FEMA can be made available.

The PDA will be used by the Governor's Office as a basis to request a major disaster declaration for Public Assistance (PA) from the President if it shows the cost of response and recovery efforts is beyond state and local capabilities to absorb.

The PA program helps fund the repair, restoration, reconstruction or replacement of public facilities that were damaged or destroyed by a disaster. It also includes reimbursement for emergency protective services and debris removal. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, tribal nations and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations that provide an essential governmental service.

If a Presidential disaster declaration for PA is issued, applicants will have 30 days to make a request for PA funds. The requirements that agencies must meet for obtaining Federal Assistance are detailed in an Applicants' Briefing to be hosted by Cal EMA.

There are two types of work eligible for reimbursement through a Public Assistance Grant: emergency work and permanent work. The categories of work are often identified by a single letter. The categories are:

Emergency Work

- A. Debris Removal
- B. Emergency Protective Measures

Permanent Work

- C. Road Systems and Bridges
- D. Water Control Facilities
- E. Buildings, Contents, and Equipment

F. Utilities

G. Parks, Recreational, and Other

A complete description of the work eligible for reimbursement through PA grants can be found at:
http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/re_categories.shtm

PA funds are made available on a cost sharing basis with FEMA paying 75 percent of eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of costs are the responsibility of the state/local agency or eligible non-profit organization. Of the 25 percent, the State of California provides 18.75 percent of the nonfederal share to local agencies, with those agencies paying 6.25 percent.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) coordinates overall state agency preparedness for, response to and recovery from major disasters. Cal EMA also maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters.

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