

Public Assistance (PA) Program

Eligible Work

Emergency Work	Permanent Work
- Category A: Debris Removal - Category B: Emergency Protective Measures	 Category C: Roads & Bridges Category D: Water Control Facilities Category E: Building & Equipment Category F: Utilities Category G: Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Other Facilities

Categories of Work

CATEGORY A: DEBRIS REMOVAL

Potentially eligible activities include clearance of:

- Trees & woody debris
- Building components or contents
- Sand, mud, silt, and gravel
- Wreckage produced during conduct of emergency protective measures (e.g., drywall)
- Other disaster-related wreckage

Examples of *eligible* activities include:

- Debris removal from a street or highway to allow safe passage of emergency vehicles
- Debris removal from public property to eliminate health & safety hazards

Examples of *ineligible* activities include:

- Removal of debris (e.g., tree limbs, trunks) from natural (unimproved) wilderness areas

For debris removal to be eligible, the work must be necessary to do at least one of the following:

- 1. Eliminate an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety
- 2. Eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property
- 3. Ensure the economic recovery of the affected community, to the benefit of the community at large
- 4. Mitigate risk to life and property by removing substantially damaged structures & associated appurtenances as needed to convert property acquired through a FEMA hazard mitigation program to uses compatible with open space, recreation, or wetlands management practices.

Documentation for Debris Removal Activities



- Removal of pre-disaster sediment from engineered channels
- Removal of debris from a natural channel, unless the debris poses an immediate threat of flooding to improved property

Debris removal from private property is generally not eligible because it is the responsibility of the individual property owner. If property owners move the disaster-related debris to a public right-of-way, the local government may be reimbursed for curbside pickup and disposal for a limited period of time. If the debris on private business/residential property is so widespread that public health, safety, or the community's economic recovery is threatened, FEMA may fund debris removal from private property--but it must be approved by FEMA in advance.

includes:

- Force account labor hours (regular/overtime/compensatory time)
- Equipment use information
- Estimate of debris handled/removed/disposed of
- Location (GPS readings) of where debris was collected and disposed of (cradle to grave)
- If contract services were utilized, a copy of the contract and how the contract was bid/solicited

Eligible costs include:

- Force account labor hours
 - Regular hours (dependent on FEMA pilot status)
 - Overtime and/or compensatory time
- Equipment costs
- Contract costs

CATEGORY B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Emergency protective measures are those activities undertaken by a community before, during, and following a disaster that are necessary to do at least one of the following:

- Eliminate or reduce an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety
- Eliminate or reduce an immediate threat of significant damage to improved public or private property through cost-effective measures

Generally, those prudent actions taken by a community to warn residents, reduce disaster damage, ensure continuation of essential public services, and protect lives and public health are eligible for assistance.

Examples of eligible measures (cont.):

- Provision of temporary facilities for schools and essential community services (e.g., construction of temporary bridges, temporary hookup of utilities, essential temporary buildings for schools/government offices)
- Activation of state or local emergency operations centers to coordinate and direct the response to a disaster event
- Demolition & removal of damaged public and private buildings and structures that pose an immediate threat to the safety of the general public
- Removal of health and safety hazards (e.g., pumping of trapped floodwaters)



Examples of *eligible* emergency protective measures include:

- Warning of risks and hazards (e.g., barricades, signs, announcements)
- Search & rescue, including transportation of disaster victims
- Emergency medical facilities
- Emergency evacuations of medical and custodial care facilities
- Facility costs (but not labor costs) for emergency mass care and shelter operations provided by volunteer agencies
- Facility costs for emergency mass care and shelter operations provided by governmental entities when volunteer agencies are unable to provide emergency mass care and shelter
- Security in the disaster area
- Provision of food, water, ice, and other essential needs at central distribution points for use by the local population
- Temporary generators for facilities that provide health & safety services
- Rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for household pets and service animals if claimed by a State or local government

- Construction of temporary levees, berms, dikes, and sandbagging (by itself or on top of levee)
- Buttressing, bracing, or shoring of a damaged structure to protect against further damage to the structure, or to protect the general public
- Emergency measures to prevent further damage to an eligible facility (e.g., boarding windows/doors, covering the roof)
- Emergency communications
- Emergency public transportation
- Building inspections
- Snow removal, if snowfall is of record or near-record amount using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data [Refer to FEMA Police 9523.1, Snow Assistance Policy]

Documentation for Emergency Protective Measures includes:

- Force account labor hours (regular, overtime/compensatory time) [only overtime/compensatory time is eligible for reimbursement]
- Equipment use information
- If contract services were utilized, a copy of the contract and how the contract was bid/solicited
- Invoices for supplies & materials

CATEGORY C: ROADS AND BRIDGES

Roads, bridges, and associated facilities (e.g., auxiliary structures, lighting, signage) **are eligible.** For roads (paved, gravel, and dirt), eligible items include any of the following:

- Surfaces

For bridges, eligible items include:

- Decking and pavement
- Piers
- Girders
- Abutments



- Bases
- Shoulders
- Ditches
- Drainage structures
- Low water crossings

- Slope protection
- Approaches

Upgrades necessary to meet current standards for roads and bridge construction, such as standards for pavement and lane width, *may be eligible* for Public Assistance.

CATEGORY D: WATER CONTROL FACILITIES

Water control facilities include:

- Dams and reservoirs
- Levees
- Lined and unlined engineered drainage channels
- Canals
- Aqueducts
- Sediment basins
- Shore protective devices
- Irrigation facilities (for PNP Irrigation eligibility)
- Pumping facilities

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Department of Agriculture - National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have primary authority for repair of flood control works - whether constructed with federal or non-federal funds - as well as authority over federally funded shore protective devices.

Therefore, permanent repairs to these facilities are *not eligible* through the PA program.

Restoration of the carrying or storage capacity of engineered channels and debris basins **may be eligible**, but maintenance records or surveys must be produced to show the pre-disaster capacity of these facilities.

CATEGORY E: BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Buildings, structural components, interior systems such as electrical or mechanical work, equipment, and contents (including furnishings) *are eligible* for repair or replacement.

Public assistance may be provided for the replacement of pre-disaster quantities or consumable supplies and inventory.

FEMA may reimburse for upgrades that are required by certain codes and standards,

When equipment, including vehicles, is not repairable, FEMA will approve the cost of replacement with used items that approximately the same age, capacity, and condition. FEMA may use "blue book" values or similar price guides to determine the eligible cost for used equipment and vehicles.

NOTE: If an insurance policy applies to a building, equipment, contents, etc., then FEMA must take that policy into account before providing funds for restoration of the building.



provided that the upgrade work is required as a direct result of the disaster.

CATEGORY F: UTILITIES

Utilities include the following:

- Water treatment plants and delivery systems
- Power generation and distribution facilities, including natural gas systems, wind turbines, generators, substations, and power lines
- Sewage collection systems and treatment plants
- Communications

FEMA does not provide funds for general surveys to look for damage (e.g., video inspection of sewer lines). However, if disaster-related damage is evident (e.g., loss of/increased flow in a pipe), FEMA may pay for inspections to determine the extent of the damage and the method of repair.

CATEGORY G: PARKS, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND OTHER FACILITIES

Eligible publicly owned facilities in this category include:

- Mass transit facilities such as railways
- Playground equipment
- Swimming pools
- Bath houses
- Tennis courts
- Boat docks
- Piers
- Picnic tables
- Golf courses
- Fish hatcheries
- Facilities that do not fit into Categories C - F

Natural features *are not eligible facilities unless* they are improved and maintained. This restriction applies to features located in parks and recreational areas. Specific criteria apply to beaches and to trees and ground cover.