

## **State Technical Assessment and Response Team (START)- Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)**

START provides state resources and assets to emergency or disaster stricken locations primarily within Nevada but can be deployed to any location within the United States. The team also conducts preliminary damage assessment to evaluate of the magnitude and severity of an event's damage, including, but not limited to, an estimate of repair costs. A preliminary damage assessment is also used to determine whether a situation is beyond the combined capabilities of the State and local resources; and justifies the need for supplemental State assistance such as the Nevada Disaster Assistance or Emergency Assistance Programs and/or Presidential Declarations and Federal assistance. Additionally, the PDA is the first step in identifying Special Considerations factors, such as insurance coverage, floodplain management, and compliance with environmental and historic preservation laws.

In times of emergency or disaster, the START team as a Mobile Support Unit in accordance with NRS 414.080 may be deployed anywhere in the United States, and its territories, pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. However, the Nevada team will primarily focus on emergencies or disasters in the State of Nevada. PDA teams will conduct site specific evaluations by visually inspecting and evaluating all major damages caused by an emergency or disaster. The PDA team will identify and record potential special considerations for the following areas of concern: the presence of hazardous materials or conditions; impacts on historic/potentially historic properties and facilities; impacts on floodplains; wetlands; and other protected properties, mitigation and insurance opportunities and socioeconomic considerations.

The Start team will complete the following tasks:

1. Attend the required and/or requested training, as determined by the Division of Emergency Management.
2. Tabulate and record data in accordance with prescribed Federal Public Assistance, Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs procedures and prepare summary reports for each public entity surveyed.
3. Serve to pro-actively educate and inform local officials on Public Assistance eligibility, debris removal criteria, contracts and contract monitoring and environmental compliance.
4. Submit finalized damage assessment data and summary report to the DEM administrator for the Governor's review in accordance with NRS 353.2753 and 353.2754
5. Conduct a joint PDA with federal government officials once the State determines that the recovery effort may be beyond the State and local capacity in accordance with 44 CFR §206.33.

The Governor will appoint the members of the START PDA, pursuant to the laws of the State (NRS Executive Order) .

## Code of Federal Regulations

### **Title 44 - Emergency Management and Assistance**

Volume: 1 Date: 2006-10-01 Original Date: 2006-10-01 Title: Section 206.33 - Preliminary damage assessment. Context: Title 44 - Emergency Management and Assistance. CHAPTER I - FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY. SUBCHAPTER D - DISASTER ASSISTANCE. PART 206 - FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR DISASTERS DECLARED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 23, 1988. Subpart B - The Declaration Process.

§ 206.33 Preliminary damage assessment. The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and the community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request, and by FEMA to document the recommendation made to the President in response to the Governor's request. It is in the best interest of all parties to combine State and Federal personnel resources by performing a joint PDA prior to the initiation of a Governor's request, as follows.

(a) *Preassessment by the State.* When an incident occurs, or is imminent, which the State official responsible for disaster operations determines may be beyond the State and local government capabilities to respond, the State will request the Regional Director to perform a joint FEMA-State preliminary damage assessment. It is not anticipated that all occurrences will result in the requirement for assistance; therefore, the State will be expected to verify their initial information, in some manner, before requesting this support.

(b) *Damage assessment teams.* Damage assessment teams will be composed of at least one representative of the Federal Government and one representative of the State. A local government representative, familiar with the extent and location of damage in his/her community, should also be included, if possible. Other State and Federal agencies, and voluntary relief organizations may also be asked to participate, as needed. It is the State's responsibility to coordinate State and local participation in the PDA and to ensure that the participants receive timely notification concerning the schedule. A FEMA official will brief team members on damage criteria, the kind of information to be collected for the particular incident, and reporting requirements.

(c) *Review of findings.* At the close of the PDA, FEMA will consult with State officials to discuss findings and reconcile any differences.

(d) *Exceptions.* The requirement for a joint PDA may be waived for those incidents of unusual severity and magnitude that do not require field damage assessments to determine the need for supplemental Federal assistance under the Act, or in such other instances determined by the Regional Director upon consultation with the State. It may be necessary, however, to conduct an assessment to determine unmet needs for managerial response purposes.

## Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

### **NRS 353.2753 - Requests for grants and loans: Preliminary assessment of damages by Division; report of damages; determination of whether event constitutes disaster; regulations.**

1. A state agency or local government may request the Division to conduct a preliminary assessment of the damages related to an event for which the state agency or local government seeks a grant or loan from the Account.

2. Upon receipt of such a request, the Division shall investigate the event or cause the event to be investigated to make a preliminary assessment of the damages related to the event and shall make or cause to be made a written report of the damages related to the event.

3. As soon as practicable after completion of the investigation and preparation of the report of damages, the Division shall:

(a) Determine whether the event constitutes a disaster for which the state agency or local government may seek a grant or loan from the Account; and

(b) Submit the report prepared pursuant to this section and its written determination regarding whether the event constitutes a disaster to the state agency or local government.

4. The Division shall prescribe by regulation the information that must be included in a report of damages, including, without limitation, a description of the damage caused by the event, an estimate of the costs to repair such damage and a specification of whether the purpose of the project is for repair or replacement, emergency response or mitigation.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 3129; A 2003, 20th Special Session, 197)

**NRS 353.2754 - Requests for grants and loans: Determination that event constitutes disaster required as condition for local governments.**

A local government may request a grant or loan from the Account if:

1. Pursuant to NRS 414.090, the governing body of the local government determines that an event which has occurred constitutes a disaster; and

2. After the Division conducts a preliminary assessment of the damages pursuant to NRS 353.2753, the Division determines that an event has occurred that constitutes a disaster.

(Added to NRS by 1999, 3128; A 2003, 20th Special Session, 198)

**NRS 414.080 - Mobile support unit.**

1. The Governor or the Governor's duly designated representative may create and establish such number of mobile support units as may be necessary to reinforce organizations for emergency management in stricken areas and with due consideration of the plans of the Federal Government and of other states. The Governor may appoint a commander for each such unit who has primary responsibility for the organization, administration and operation of the unit. Mobile support units may be called to duty upon orders of the Governor and shall perform their functions in any part of the State, or, upon the conditions specified in this section, in other states.

2. Personnel of mobile support units while on duty, whether within or without the State:

(a) If they are employees of the State, have the powers, duties, rights, privileges and immunities and receive the compensation incidental to their employment.

(b) If they are employees of a political subdivision of the State, and whether serving within or without that political subdivision, have the powers, duties, rights, privileges and immunities and receive the compensation incidental to their employment.

(c) If they are not employees of the State or a political subdivision thereof, are entitled to compensation by the State at \$10 per day and to the same rights and immunities as are provided by law for the employees of the State. All personnel of mobile support units, while on duty, are subject to the operational control of the authority in charge of activities for emergency management in the area in which they are serving, and must be reimbursed for all actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses.

3. The State may reimburse a political subdivision for the compensation paid and actual and necessary travel, subsistence and maintenance expenses of employees of such political subdivision while serving as members of a mobile support unit, for all payments for death, disability or injury of such employees incurred in the course of duty, and for all losses of or damage to supplies and equipment of the political subdivision resulting from the operation of such mobile support unit.

[8:293:1953]—(NRS A 1983, 172)



## **PDA Program Purpose**

In accordance with 44 CFR 206.33 - Preliminary damage assessment, NRS 414.080 and NRS 353.2753, the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) is a joint assessment used to determine the magnitude and impact of an event's damage. A State team will usually visit local applicants and view their damage first-hand to assess the scope of damage and estimate repair costs. The State uses the results of the PDA to determine if the situation is beyond the combined capabilities of the State and local resources and to verify the need for supplemental Federal assistance. The PDA also identifies any unmet needs that may require immediate attention.

The terms magnitude and severity refer to the two informational components gathered and formulated during the PDA process. Magnitude refers to what happened and where, what type of infrastructure was damaged and the estimated repair or replacement cost. Severity describes the impact of the disaster on the state and local communities.

## **Work and Activities that will be Performed**

In a time of disaster the PDA team can be deployed anywhere in the continental United States and its territories under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact but the Nevada Team's primary focus is in here in Nevada.

PDA team members train and are prepared to do Site-Specific evaluations by visually inspecting and evaluating all major damages caused by an event. The members develop and record a site-by-site or project-by-project findings report based on abbreviated scopes of work, cost estimates, and disaster impacts for all priority sites and critical infrastructure, resulting in a summarized result for all communities impacted by the disaster. Identify and record potential special considerations for the following: presence of hazardous materials or conditions, impacts on historic/potentially historic properties and facilities, impacts on floodplains, wetlands, and other protected properties, mitigation and insurance opportunities and socioeconomic considerations.

Tabulate and record data in accordance with prescribed Public Assistance program procedures and prepare summary reports for each public entity surveyed.

Serve to pro-actively educate and inform local officials on Public Assistance eligibility, debris removal criteria, contracts and contract monitoring and environmental compliance.

Submit finalized damage assessment data and summary report to the DEM administrator for the Governor's review.





# FEMA

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## FEMA Blog

April 5, 2012

### Susanna Marking: From the Office to the Field, Every FEMA Employee is an Emergency Manager

Posted by: Mark Peterson, Public Affairs

On March 1, 2012, the State of Illinois requested assistance from FEMA to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessments as a result of the severe storms and tornadoes that affected Illinois on February 29. Those same storms caused significant impacts across much of the Midwest and South, and we also received requests to support PDA's in Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. Disaster reservists and staff from our regional and headquarters offices immediately deployed to the affected areas to support our states.

Among the staff deployed was Susanna Marking, who in her day-to-day job is a Media Relations Specialist at headquarters. In keeping with the Administrator's vision that *all FEMA employees are emergency managers*, Susanna was deployed in support of the Illinois PDAs. I thought I would share, in her words, a little bit about her experience.

"When my supervisor sent me to join PDA teams after some significant tornado damage in Illinois, I had no idea what to expect. While I had worked at FEMA for nearly one year, I had not yet deployed to the field. I was excited to learn more about the work we do every day to support our states and disaster survivors; it was going to be a great opportunity to understand what it is like to work in the field at a disaster as a FEMA employee.

I arrived in Marion, Ill. on March 5 and spent the next several days training with our experienced FEMA public information officers in the field, supporting the State of Illinois on damage assessments. All of these PIO reservists had a wealth of experience and many had worked for FEMA a long time (8-15 years as a reservist), serving communities around the country in their share of disasters - including Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. In just two days, I learned a tremendous amount about the PDA process, and the role of PIOs in the field.

The first day, I was assigned to shadow Dick Gifford, a FEMA Reservist PIO, with his assigned PDA team. Each team was assigned a PIO and specific counties to assess. I learned that the reason we deploy PIOs with PDA teams is to ensure that the media is well informed, while also allowing the teams to continue their work uninterrupted. Equally important, the PIOs can also facilitate the media's interactions with disaster survivors.

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## Office of the Governor

January 27, 2012

U.S. Small Business Administration  
Mr. Alfred Judd, Director  
Fields Operations West - Office of Disaster Assistance  
P.O. Box 419004  
Sacramento, CA 95841-9004

**Subject: SBA Preliminary Damage Assessment and Disaster Declaration**

Dear Mr. Judd:

On January 19, 2012, at approximately 12:30 pm, Washoe County in the State of Nevada suffered a devastating wildland fire with an urban interface. The event received the name of "Washoe Drive," due in large part to the area in which it started. The fire burned approximately 3,177 acres, destroyed and/or damaged private residences, public property and infrastructure. The Washoe Drive Fire listed as open January 19, 2012 through January 21, 2012. The joint damage assessment conducted by staff from the Small Business Administration (SBA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), State of Nevada, and the local affected governments determined that **42** properties were identified as affected. The affected properties include: **25** residential and **1** business structures with major damage, **10** residences and **6** business structures with minor damage, and no non-profit organizations were identified as having any damage. Based on the above information, I am confident that Washoe County exceeds the minimum criteria for an SBA disaster declaration.

I am respectfully requesting a review of the damage assessment report, created by SBA representatives after the joint damage assessment, for consideration and possible approval of an SBA disaster declaration. If approved, SBA's support will provide much needed assistance to the citizens of Washoe County and the State of Nevada.

I authorize Christopher B. Smith, Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, as my representative for this request. Chief Smith will work closely with the SBA and can provide further information on my behalf. He may be reached at (775) 687-0300 or via email at [cbsmith@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:cbsmith@dps.state.nv.us). Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sandoval".

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor

cc: Nevada Division of Emergency Management



# ***DISASTER NEWS***

*Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes*

**Release Date:** February 1, 2012  
**Release Number:** NV 13000-01

**Media Contact:** Richard Jenkins  
**Phone:** (916) 735-1500

## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Nevada Residents And Businesses Affected by the Washoe Drive Fire**

**Sacramento, CA** – Low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Nevada residents and business owners affected by the Washoe Drive Fire in Reno January 19 - 21, 2012, announced U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Karen G. Mills. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request from Gov. Brian Sandoval on January 30.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in **Washoe County** and the neighboring Nevada counties of **Churchill, Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing, Storey and Carson City**; the California counties of **Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer and Sierra**; and the Oregon counties of **Harney and Lake**.

“The U. S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing Nevadans with the most effective and customer-focused response possible, and we will be there to provide access to federal disaster loans to help finance recovery for residents and businesses affected by the disaster,” said Mills. “Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.”

“Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, nonprofit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster,” said SBA’s Acting Nevada District Director Edward P. Brown. “Beginning Friday, February 3, SBA representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA’s disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application,” Brown continued. The center will be open on the days and times indicated until further notice. No appointment is necessary.

**Washoe County**  
Disaster Loan Outreach Center  
Washoe County Administration Complex  
Building A, Room 1124  
1001 East 9th Street  
Reno, NV 89512

***Opens Friday, February 3***

**Mondays through Fridays, 9 am to 6 pm**

***Closes Friday, February 17 at 6 pm***

(-- more --)

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private, nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.063 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for private, nonprofit organizations and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available from SBA's Customer Service Center by calling (800) 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) or visiting SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339.

The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is **April 2, 2012**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **November 1, 2012**.

*For more information, visit SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*  
SBA Field Operations Center - West, P.O. Box 419004, Sacramento, CA 95841

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## **Mexican Dam 2011 – Carson City**

### **Scenario**

On November 3, 2011 an early winter storm with heavy down pours of rain creates a flash flood event in the Carson Valley causing the Carson River to exceed flood stage.

The resulting flood waters and debris flow destroy the historic Mexican Dam.

### **Assignments**

#### **PDA Teams 1 & 2**

1. Take Photographs of the debris field and damaged Mexican Dam.
2. Estimate the square footage of the debris field and dam structure.
3. Estimate the cost to remove debris and dam.

#### **PDA Teams 3 & 4**

1. Take Photographs of the debris field and damaged Mexican Dam.
2. Estimate the square footage of the structure.
3. Ascertain whether the State and local officials intend to have the Mexican Dam replaced. If not, report findings. Is an alternate project being proposed and if so what type of structure and obtain a cost estimate of the alternate project.

Note: Alternate projects are eligible for 75% of the approved Federal share of the estimated eligible cost of completing the alternate project.

4. On the assumption that the Mexican Dam is to be replaced. Obtain information as to what type of structure is to be built and a cost estimate for replacement at current dam standards from Local and State Officials.

## Calculations

### How to Calculate Cubic Volume of materials such as concrete, dirt or debris

Materials such as concrete, dirt, and other debris are calculated on a cubic volume basis (usually by cubic yards although some places it will have to be by cubic feet due to the smaller area).

For Example - Using concrete debris the formula is slab thickness (in ft.) X slab width (in ft.) X slab length (in ft.) = Total cubic ft. of concrete.

5FT (in high) X 10FT in Width X 25FT in Length = 1250 Cubic FT

Because debris is hauled away by trucks it is converted into cubic yards. When converting between cubic yards / cubic feet / cubic inches use the following conversion factors:

- 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet
- 1 cubic foot = 1,728 cubic inches

Converting to Cubic Yards = 1250 cubic feet / 27 cubic feet = 46.29 Cubic yards.  
Always round up to the nearest cubic yard or 47.

### How Many Cubic Feet/Yards = a Ton

To convert pounds (which is abbreviated as lb) to cubic feet, you divide the weight in pounds (which is abbreviated as lb) by 100, therefore 2,000 pounds (which is abbreviated as 2,000lb) divided by 100 is equivalent to 20 cubic feet. To convert cubic feet to cubic yards, you divide the area in cubic feet by 27, therefore 20 cubic feet divided by 27 is equivalent to approximately 0.74 cubic yards. Therefore, one ton is equivalent to about three-fourth of a cubic yard.