

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Building and Sustaining a Viable Capability at the Local Level

Assessing - Documenting - Analyzing - Reporting



OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COLORADO

MISSION AREA: Recovery

CORE CAPABILITY: Infrastructure Systems*

TRAINING RESOURCES

- »»» FEMA's Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide (PDA Guide)
- »»» IS-556: Damage Assessment for Public Works
- »»» IS-559: Local Damage Assessment
- »»» IS-772.a: IA Preliminary Damage Assessment Orientation
- »»» G0557: Rapid Needs Assessment

ACTIVELY ENGAGE WITH LOCAL AND STATE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Engage with subject matter experts from a variety of organizations
- Leverage the collective knowledge by building multidisciplinary teams
- Key internal partners could include: Public Works, Community Economic Development, Assessor's Office, Building Department, Parks and Open Space, etc.
- Coordinate with state emergency management agencies to confirm information needs and data sharing capabilities



ASSESSING - DOCUMENTING - ANALYZING - REPORTING

Reliable technology with strong signal strength is essential for an effective and efficient damage assessment in the field. Invest in mobile hotspots or satellite-based services, and ensure tablet devices have SIM cards allowing for mobile data.

METHODOLOGY

- Engaging all relevant jurisdictional partners with multidisciplinary skillsets
- Providing routine training opportunities on the latest national standards
- Investing in and implementing web-based damage assessment software programs that are compatible with tablet devices equipped with forward-facing cameras
- Acquiring and maintaining a fleet of standardized damage assessment 'go-kits' filled with tools and supplies
- Partnering with state emergency management agencies to ensure software interoperability from the local level to the state level
- Ensuring damage assessment team members participate in trainings on software systems and proper equipment usage on a recurring basis

PARTNER WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS AND EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS

Local | State | Federal

UTILIZE HSEEP TO DESIGN AND CONDUCT REALISTIC EXERCISES

DISCUSSION BASED

- Games
- Tabletops
- Workshops
- Seminars

OPERATIONS BASED

- Full-Scale Exercises
- Functional Exercises
- Drills

REFERENCES

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2024, June). FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide, Draft 1.1. fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pad-pda-guide_operational-draft_v1.1.pdf

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2021, August). FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide. fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_2021-pda-guide.pdf

EMS, Inc. (2019, February 8). Building a Culture of Preparedness. emsics.com/building-culture-preparedness/

*While the damage assessment process is not officially designated under the infrastructure systems capability by FEMA, it is highly correlated to this capability.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (2025, February 10). Preliminary Damage Assessments. fema.gov/disaster/how-declared/preliminary-damage-assessments

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