



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Administrator

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For questions, please contact: WEM Duty Officer 1-800-943-0003

Current Incident

Federal assistance through the Stafford Act is based on a defined incident period. The current rainfall period began on **August 17, 2018** and will continue into the weekend. The National Weather Service (NWS) has indicated that the current system is part of an ongoing weather pattern. According to FEMA, who administers the Stafford Act disaster relief, the incident period ends when either the weather pattern dissipates and/or when the last NWS river gauge goes below major flood stage.

Stafford Act Declaration Process

To request a Presidential declaration, within 30 days from the end of the incident period, the Governor will submit a request through FEMA, based on the following process:

- County emergency management offices will develop initial damage estimates for public infrastructure, homes, businesses and agricultural losses resulting from the incident, and are submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management on forms called the Uniform Disaster Situation Report (UDSR).
- County emergency management offices, working with local governments will develop impact statements to identify the adverse effects on homes and businesses, local roads, economy, government services, etc., to be included with the county initial damage estimates.
- If the county estimates meet or exceed both the state and the county indicator, the state will request a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). The indicators are based on a cost per person in the county (\$3.68) and state (\$1.46) respectively.
- The PDA is FEMA's formal validation or estimate of the reported damages by the county on the UDSR forms. The PDA will provide the formal estimates, from both Individual Assistance (primary residences) and Public Assistance (public infrastructure).

Specific to Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

Joint State/FEMA PDA field teams are intended to validate – not find – damage and impact information. The identification of damage must be accomplished in the initial damage assessments reported by the county emergency management office. The PDA teams comprised of county, state, FEMA representatives

At the close of the Joint PDA, FEMA will provide the state with a final summary of its finding of damage and costs. Those findings will be included in the Governor's request for the Presidential disaster declaration.

FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Program

The FEMA IA program provides assistance to support the recovery of disaster survivors who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses, to include assistance for temporary housing and housing repairs, furnaces and hot water heaters, critical disaster-related expenses, and the replacement of essential personal property. The following criterion applies:

For a state to receive an IA declaration, the FEMA recommended threshold of 582 homes having major damages or considered destroyed must be validated FEMA. Major damage to a home is defined as 18 inches of flood water over the first living floor or extensive wall or roof damage. A destroyed home is defined as a home completely flooded, collapsed foundation or home off of the foundation. The home must be homeowner's primary residence and damages are not covered by insurance or other federal program.

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program

The FEMA PA program provides assistance to local, state and tribal governments, including certain types of private nonprofit (PNP) organizations to remove debris, provide emergency protective measures, and restore equipment, buildings, and other public infrastructure damaged by the disaster.

Affected counties will have submitted UDSRs to Wisconsin Emergency Management and county emergency management office will prepare binders cataloguing the all damage assessments within the county. The PDA site visits will be scheduled with the county emergency management office. The purpose of the PDA is to validate damages, not find damage that has not been previously reported.

The PDA damage indicators (or thresholds) that must be met or exceeded to qualify for PA program are \$3.68 per capita for the counties and \$1.46 per capita for the State (\$8,303,000). Once the Joint PDA has been completed, Wisconsin Emergency Management will review the validated information and make a recommendation to the Governor for a request of the Stafford Act declaration.

SBA Disaster Assistance Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters following a declared disaster. Generally, the minimum threshold for an SBA declaration is at least 25 homes or businesses (or some combination of the two) that have sustained uninsured losses of 40% or more in any county or community of a state.

Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 for disaster related home repairs. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to replace disaster-damaged personal property including vehicles. The interest rate is based on the current banking rates at the time. The SBA may not duplicate benefits from your insurance or FEMA.

Storm Debris

Storm debris disposal is the responsibility of the local public works department or the company contracted with by the community for waste removal. Communities should consult with their county public works department for proper disposal of debris caused by a large-scale incident.

Residents and businesses can clean up storm debris in a way that protects their immediate health and safety and reduces longer-term risks to human health and the environment by keeping hazardous materials out of groundwater, surface waters and soil. Guidance on cleaning up and disposing of storm and flood debris, including sandbags, can be found on the DNR website at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/StormDebris.html>.