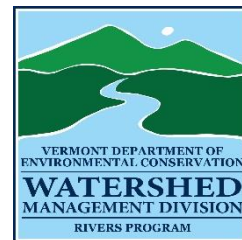


DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS QUICK GUIDE



TYPES OF DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

*PDA = Preliminary Damage Assessment

INITIAL DAMAGE SURVEYS

Goal: Gain situational awareness as soon as safely possible.

Three Categories:

- Completely destroyed
- Partially destroyed
- Minor damage

Vermont Fire Safety will conduct inspections regarding electric, fuel and other hazards.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PDAs

Focus: Habitability - Can the survivor safely continue to live in the structure?

Five Categories:

- Destroyed
- Major
- Minor
- Inaccessible
- Affected

Determine IA eligibility for the county.
Completed by a FEMA-led team

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE ESTIMATION (SDE)

Focus: Completed for **local** permitting needs. Applies to homes in a Special Flood Hazard Area where the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

SDEs estimate the cost of repairing structures and determine eligibility for assistance.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PDAs

The PA Program provides federal funding for disaster-related debris removal and permanent repair work to public infrastructure among other eligible costs.

PDAs will begin after a federal declaration



WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

FEMA Disaster Declarations for **Public Assistance** are based on damages meeting pre-determined thresholds on a jurisdictional basis. FEMA's **Individual Assistance** program is based on a combination of factors to show the impact and hardship on community members. These programs allow eligible applicants to seek reimbursement and assistance for damages and some disaster response activities.

If your community participates in the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**, certain regulations must be followed, even after a flooding event, in order to maintain participation and benefit from its respective programs. This means that communities that have experienced impacts to structures in the FEMA-mapped Special Flood Hazard Area will be required to perform Substantial Damage Assessments.

If an event is determined to be a federal disaster, it may release FEMA Public Assistance and additionally Individual Assistance for all counties or only in certain counties. Conducting more damage assessments will help provide support for Individual Assistance eligibility and allow additional counties to be included in the declaration.



ASSESSMENT TEAMS

Teams are conducting multiple types of Damage Assessments in your community. They will be made up of state, federal, and local personnel. Some have traveled from other states to come and assist Vermont, so you may see many different logos in the community.

Team Make-Ups could include:

1. VT DEC Staff
2. IA Specialist
3. SBA Representative
4. NFIP Expert
5. Local Official
6. VTrans Staff



Additional Information

VT DEC Help After Flooding



Get information for individuals and local officials at:
<https://floodready.vermont.gov/help-after-flooding>