

# **MONROE COUNTY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PLAN**

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Protecting lives and property through effective partnerships, planning and response to mitigate the impact of natural, technological and human-related emergencies.

The Monroe County Emergency Management (MCEM) is the lead department for the coordination of comprehensive emergency preparedness, training, response, recovery and mitigation services in order to save lives, protect Monroe County's economic base and reduce the impact of emergencies. MCEM is a department within the Division of Public Safety and is authorized by Florida Statute 252: Emergency Management.

# **MONROE COUNTY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PLAN**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Monroe County Emergency Damage Assessment Plan is an operations-oriented plan, and addresses issues involved in the coordination of post-disaster county damage assessment to county's infrastructure.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

Preliminary damage assessment is the process of counting, estimating, appraising or sizing-up the damage caused by a disaster prior to declaration of a major disaster or emergency.

Since different disasters cause different types of damage, it is imperative that the damage assessment process begins immediately after the emergency event (within 12 daylight hours), and prior to the arrival of Florida DEM Damage Assessment Team personnel in the county.

## **3.0 OBJECTIVE**

Information collected will determine not only the impact on any given community, but also will assist the Governor's Office to adequately assess the appropriate road to recovery.

Any follow up surveys conducted by State, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) or SBA (Small Business Administration), will be based on data collected by the MCDAT thus, reliable data will expedite the ultimate goal of obtaining a disaster declaration.

This plan is established for personnel who would be called upon to initiate the county's damage assessment process.

This special team is comprised of county employees whom are experienced in their line of work. Their sole purpose is to begin immediate assessment services.

## **4.0 SITUATION**

The following is a description of anticipated damages resulting from various disaster events:

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## **4.0 SITUATION (continued)**

### **4.1 Tornadoes**

- Immediate severe damage
- Damage is along a narrow path from hundred yards to hundreds of miles long
- Structural damage
- Much debris
- Damage is readily apparent

### **4.2 Floods**

- Short duration, severe damage with little warning
- Structural and erosion damage
- Much debris
- Debris and damaged structures covered with silt, oil and chemicals
- Damage is widespread
- Damages is readily apparent

### **4.3 Hurricanes**

- This is a combination of the type of damage encountered in tornadoes and floods, but with 24 hours or more warning
- Damage along path of up to 50 miles wide but diminishing in severity from the coastline inland
- Severe wind and water (surge and rain) structural damage
- Severe wind and water damage along beaches
- Much debris
- Long term damage from salt water inundation
- Damage is widespread
- Damage is apparent

### **4.4 Earthquakes**

- Severe structural damage with no warning
- Terrain is drastically altered in some areas
- Structural damage is mostly apparent but some is hidden
- Damage is widespread
- Debris is at point of destruction and in relation to severity of shock and type structures

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## **5.0 PREPAREDNESS**

Preparedness involves those activities, procedures, and actions that governments, organizations, and individuals have developed to protect and save lives and to minimize damage. Preparedness is an “insurance policy” against emergencies since we can not mitigate against every disaster. It is undertaken because mitigation activities can not keep an emergency from occurring.

Preparedness activities include planning, training and exercising to ensure that the most effective and efficient response efforts minimize damages and the loss of life.

## **6.0 DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Initial damage assessment must be completed within 12 daylight hours immediately following a disaster event, and prior to the arrival of Florida DEM Damage Assessment Team personnel in the county. Florida DEM team members are from the State, FEMA and SBA organizations.

Monroe County Damage Assessment Team (MCDAT) will consist of a minimum of 15 personnel from the following departments:

- Public Works (Engineering) – 3 personnel
- Code Enforcement – 3 personnel
- Building Department – 3 personnel
- Fire Rescue – 3 personnel
- Solid Waste (debris management experience) - 3 personnel

The selection of the above mentioned departments was based on the department’s area of expertise relative to the geographical knowledge of Monroe County; structural expertise; debris removal experience, etc.

This team will be separated into 3 groups (5 personnel per group), and each group will be allocated an area for damage survey (Upper, Middle and Lower Keys).

MCDAT will meet with the State DAT upon their arrival in the county. County will produce damage assessment report to the state team, and will accompany the visiting personnel to the affected areas.

This effort will be coordinated directly through the Department of Emergency Management.

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## **6.0 DAMAGE ASSESSMENT PROCESS (continued)**

It will be the responsibility of Monroe County Emergency Management to provide all damage assessment training to the team personnel.

Department of emergency Management will issue MCDAT badges to the team Lead Coordinator for distribution.

MCDAT members will be available to respond to this duty immediately after the disaster event.

In conducting damage assessments in disaster affected areas, the gathered information will need to paint an accurate mental picture of the damage and of it's impact on the people and their communities. The subjects listed below represent important aspects of assessment, which may be applicable to the situation.

(These subjects are not meant to apply specifically to EACH damaged structure in the affected area, but rather to describe the different types of facilities damaged by the disaster).

### **Functions of damaged structures**

Describe the uses of major buildings receiving damage, such as residential, schools, hospitals, government facilities, commercial structures, etc.

### **Construction types**

Major structures may be masonry, steel and glass, brick, wood, etc. The size of the structure must also be described.

### **Damage description**

The type of damage must be described (i.e., broken windows, blown off roofs, height of flood level, walls down, etc.). Describe equipment and content damages.

### **Impact**

If damaged structures are no longer habitable, report on the availability of alternate facilities.

## **7.0 Responsibilities**

### **7.1 Local Government**

County will receive required reports from municipalities and will consolidate these with data from unincorporated areas, insuring non-duplication of data.

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## **7.0 Responsibilities (continued)**

Consolidated reports (county and municipalities) will be submitted to the appropriate State disaster agency.

When local facilities are inadequate to provide necessary responses, the local government will request aid through the State disaster agency.

### **7.2 County Division/Department Directors**

The Directors of selected departments will appoint the most qualified personnel to serve on the MCDAT

### **7.3 MCDAT Lead Coordinator**

The MCDAT will have a Lead Coordinator whose responsibilities will include:

- Dispatch personnel to affected areas
- Ensure the team has all necessary resources (attachment "A")
- Production of the final damage assessment report for submittal to the Florida DEM Damage Assessment Team
- Select a representative from the MCDAT to accompany the visiting team during their visits to the affected areas

### **7.4 Monroe County Emergency Management**

It is the responsibility of Monroe County Emergency Management to coordinate a working relationship between Monroe County Damage Assessment Team personnel and the State, FEMA and SBA Damage Assessment Team.

The Department of Emergency Management will coordinate training for the team members relative to damage assessment procedures.

### **7.5 State Government**

The State is the first source of governmental assistance available to local governments.

When assistance is requested, the State will dispatch State Damage Assessment Teams to the affected area. These teams will be designated and trained in advance.

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## **7.0 Responsibilities (continued)**

### **7.5 State Government**

Individual State agencies will assess damages to State property under their control and report damages as well as actions and expenditures directly to the State disaster agency.

The State disaster agency will compile and analyze incoming assessment and will provide to the Governor and State agencies accurate and timely information.

When State resources are inadequate to meet response requirements; the State disaster agency will compile data to document the need for Federal assistance.

### **7.6 Federal Government**

If such request is made the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Regional director will execute FEMA damage assessment efforts, and compile the damage assessment and expenditure reports into a summary of findings and forward it to the National Office for their recommendation to the President.

The major agency for supplying grants to restore public facilities and coordinate individual assistance is FEMA.

If disaster damage is of such severity and magnitude where effective response is beyond the State and local government's capability, the President may declare an emergency or major disaster.

## **ATTACHMENT "A"**

### **Monroe County Damage Assessment Resource List**

- Monroe County Maps
- Cameras
- Film
- Video Cameras and videotapes (if possible – preferred method)
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Clipboards
- Pens/pencils
- Vehicles
- Badges
- Slickers
- Boots
- 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit
- Bottled water
- Forms

The Monroe County Fleet Management (Public Works Division) is responsible for provision of all vehicular equipment for damage assessment purposes. The Building Department damage assessment personnel as well as the Code Enforcement staff would utilize their county vehicles for the initial damage assessment survey.

County resources which would be available for assessment and response:

17 Pickup Trucks  
 14 Sedans  
 3 Cargo Vans  
 3 Flatbed trucks  
 6 Chippers  
 5 Dump trucks  
 4 Deere tractors  
 3 Deere 244E and 244H loaders

Additionally, the County has a contract with disaster response contractor which would be activated and respond when necessary.

County Public Works maintains 5 fuel pumps throughout the county and has reserve fuel supply storage in the Lower Keys. Additionally, the county has a contract with fuel delivery vendors that would deliver fuel within 24-hour (providing US1 is passable). Should the main highway prevent vehicular traffic, request would be made to deliver fuel to the county via barge.

**ATTACHMENT "B"**

**Forms**