



ROBERT T. STAFFORD

DISASTER RELIEF

AND

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

PUBLIC LAW 93-288

AS AMENDED BY

PUBLIC LAW 100-707

KEY FEATURES OF THE ACT

DISASTER RESPONSE **PRIMARILY**
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL **ASSISTANCE**
SUPPLEMENTAL

PRESIDENTIAL **DECLARATION**
NECESSARY

FEMA SERVES
AS COORDINATOR

WHAT CONSTITUTES A DISASTER?

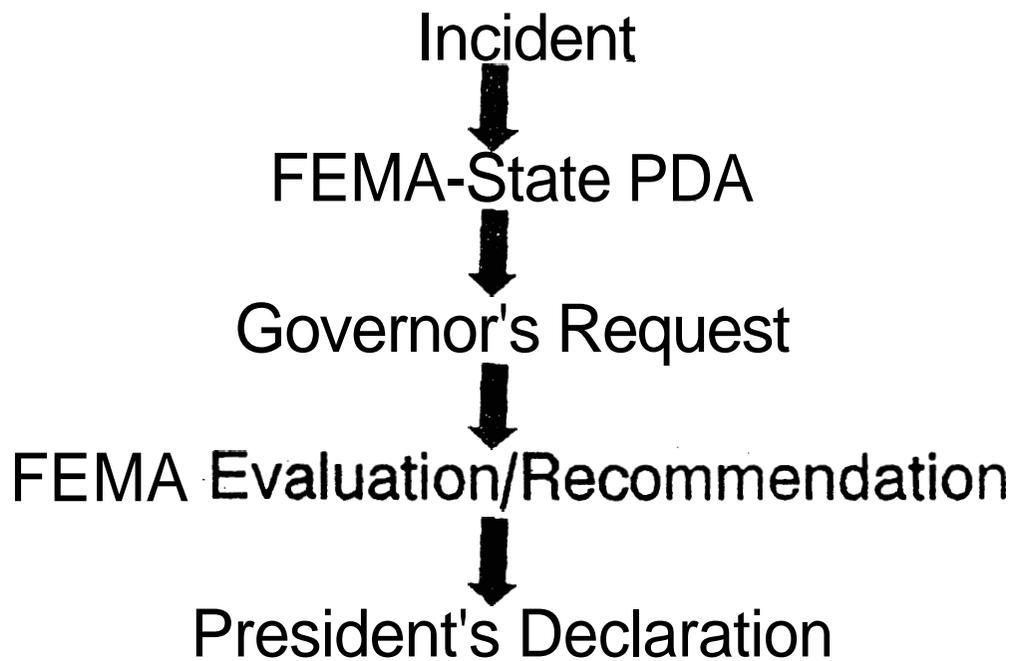
ANY - natural event - fire
- flood - explosion from any cause

- Exceeds State and Local relief efforts
- Renders Insurance Inadequate
- **Makes** federal assistance necessary to supplement resources

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN EMERGENCY?

- ANY incident: beyond State and Local capabilities
- Posing imminent threat to
 - Life
 - Safety, or
 - Property
- Requiring Federal Assistance to supplement resources

DECLARATION PROCESS



PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

DOCUMENTS

Disaster Severity

ESTABLISHES

- Foundation for Governor's request
- Type of **Assistance** Needed

DETERMINES

- FEMA's recommendation to **President**
- Areas requiring designation

PROVIDES

- Information to Federal Coordinating Officer

GOVERNOR'S REQUEST

- MAJOR REQUIREMENTS -

Governor's request must

DECLARE

- State and local resources inadequate
- Governor's Responsibilities Met

INCLUDE

- Damage estimate
- Inventory of resources committed
- **Specification** of assistance requested
- Certification of cost sharing

PROCESSING THE GOVERNOR'S REQUEST

- Findings submitted from FEMA Regional Office to Headquarters
- Recommendation to SLPS Associate Director **from FEMA DA staff**
- Package prepared for President
- Recommendation by FEMA Director
- Package handcarried to White House

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

POST DECLARATION

- **Federal** Coordinating Officer (FCO) **assigned** by Director FEMA
- Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM) appointed by Regional Director
- State Coordinating Officer (SCO) **assigned** by Governor
- **Governor's** Authorized Representative (**GAR**) appointed by Governor
- **Disaster Field Office (DFO) established**

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER

Lead Federal official on site

- Assesses most urgent needs
- Devises strategy to meet needs
- State counterpart - State Coordinating Officer

RESPONSIBILITIES

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT -

Immediate

- Warn & evacuate citizens
- Perform search & rescue
- Protect life & property
- Mobilize local resources for recovery

Secondary

- Assess damage & impact on community
- Relay assessment of damage & **needs** to State

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Local governments and public agencies
- Individuals and families
- Hazard mitigation

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Individual and family grants
- Temporary housing assistance
- Disaster unemployment assistance
- Crisis counseling

DISASTER APPLICATION CENTERS

Central locations providing
disaster assistance and information.

DISASTER APPLICATION CENTERS

Staffed by **representatives** from:

- Government **Agencies**
(Local, State and **Federal**)
- Voluntary organizations

NATIONAL TELEREGISTRATION CENTER

- Alternative to Disaster Application Center
 - NOT a replacement
- Available immediately upon President's Declaration

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance to State **and** local governments and **private** nonprofits for response and recovery from a major disaster or emergency.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- Debris Removal

Emergency Protective Measures

- Repair or replacement of public facilities
- Repairs and operating assistance for public schools

APPLICATION PROCESS

- State administers the program as the Grantee
- Applicant briefing
- NOT submitted by each subgrantee
- Inspections - Damage Survey Report

APPLICATION PROCESS

- State administers the program as the Grantee
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Inspections - Damage Survey Report

DIRECT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

(Section 402 and 403)

The exception rather than the rule

DIRECT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE

NEEDS IDENTIFIED
Appropriate State Official

- Task must exceed State & local response capabilities

REQUEST EVALUATED
FEMA Disaster Field Office
FEMA HQS

- Tasking is usually oral followed **up** with written agreement

SUMMARY

Major Points

FEMA coordinates disaster relief efforts

- **Stafford Act defines**
 - Authorities
 - Constraints
- **Disaster Response:** Primarily State & Local responsibilities
- **Assistance** (under Stafford Act) is
 - Supplemental
 - Contingent on President's Declaration
 - Mostly cost-shared - joint FEMA/State activity