Managing Expectations in Recovery

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Managing Expectations in Recovery

- Assess your capabilities
- Enhancing your capabilities
- Have the right knowledge to make an informed decision, i.e. thresholds
- Know processes
Typical Facts

• Out of every jurisdictional incident command set up, Finance is typically the least utilized.

• In the Recovery phase, assessing financial impact is one of the most critical functions.
Typical Facts

- The Public sector typically focuses training on response more than any other phase. In contrast, the private sector typically focuses just as much time on recovery as response.
Recovery

What does this mean:

• Jurisdictions are missing out on capturing and receiving reimbursement for response and recovery costs.

• Jurisdictions may not be putting enough resources into planning for long-term recovery.
Recovery

• We must go into an event with some level of expectations and knowledge.
• Going into a Recovery event, without any pre-planning is like... well, you’ll see
Recovery
Request for Assistance

If a jurisdiction/County concludes they need outside assistance, counties need to submit three (3) documents to the state to be considered:

- **Breaks down damages and impacts**
- **States effective recovery is beyond the county to recover**
- **Demonstrates importance of event by local officials**
Preliminary Damage Assessment
PDA Process Revision

Past
• Individual Assistance and Public Assistance would schedule PDAs separately
• Jurisdictions had two work with two Recovery POCs
• Jurisdictions were confused on the purpose of the second assessment.

Now
• One high level staff member from Recovery will coordinate all assessments
• Jurisdictions work with one POC
• Having one POC will reduce confusion regarding the purpose of assessments.
Most Common PDA Issues

• Jurisdictions are not completely familiar with their losses – both infrastructures and homes/businesses. Follow up contact is sometimes made with additional damages.

• Jurisdictions could be better prepared for assessment teams. This is the jurisdiction’s opportunity to make their case.

(See Steps to Take for Local Government Damage Assessments Attachment - salmon paper)
Most Common PDA Issues

- Confusion between Red Cross and FEMA housing damage thresholds.

Red Cross’s aim is to assess needs and requirements

FEMA’s aim is to assess housing damages

(See Agency Damage Assessment Criteria Comparison Attachment – yellow paper)
Most Common PDA Issues

• When staff show up, the first question is ... 
  "What do we need to have to get a declaration?"

TDEM tended not to share thresholds for fear jurisdictions would stop once they reached them.

Chief Kidd believes in being transparent and to afford jurisdictions the opportunity to know
Typical Process

Disaster Event → Response and Local Assessment → Request for Assistance → Preliminary Damage Assessment

Department of Homeland Security → FEMA National → FEMA 6 Review → Governor’s Request

White House → Declaration / Appeal Process
What happens after PDAs

Disaster Approval Formula
County population × shoe size /
number of people who watch Honey BooBoo = county declaration
Declarations
Declarations

Presidential
Assistance can range from: all elements within the Individual Assistance program; all categories within the Public Assistance program and DFA; and Hazard Mitigation

Emergency
Assistance can range from: Debris removal, emergency protective measures and DFA. No Individual Assistance or Hazard Mitigation. Limited to $5 million.
Thresholds

For the President/FEMA to consider issuing a **presidential** declaration, there are two primary thresholds for the State of Texas:

- Housing losses must be close to **800** homes/businesses that are either destroyed or have major damage (*according to 44 CFR*)
- Infrastructure losses must exceed **$34 Million**

However there are other federal considerations...
Thresholds

Other considerations...

• Amount and type of damage
• Impact on infrastructure
• Imminent threats to public health and safety
• Impacts to essential government services
• Unique capability of Federal government
• Dispersion or concentration of damage
Thresholds

- Level of insurance for homeowners and public facilities
- Assistance available from other sources
- State and local resource commitments from previous, undeclared events
- Frequency of disaster events over recent time period
2013 Federal Thresholds

Public Assistance

Statewide per capita indicator for PA is now $1.37. The 2012 statewide indicator was $1.35.

$1.37 \times 25,145,561 \, (2010 \, census) = \$34,449,418

The new state threshold to receive a FEMA PA declaration is $34,449,418
FY 2013

Yearly Thresholds
2013 Federal Thresholds

Public Assistance

Countywide per capita indicator for PA is currently $3.45.
The 2012 countywide indicator was $3.39.

$3.45 \times \text{County 2010 Pop.} = \text{County Threshold}

Both the statewide per capita threshold ($34,449,418) and countywide threshold must be met for a county to receive a PA declaration.

(See Texas County Thresholds for PA attachment – purple paper)
2013 Federal Thresholds

Public Assistance

Maximum amount of Small Project Grants for PA is now $67,500. The maximum threshold for 2012 was $66,400.

Small project funding is based on estimated cost, when actual costs are not available. TDEM forwards the total federal share of the funds to the applicant as soon as practicable for small projects.

Projects greater than or equal to $67,500 will be reimbursed based on actual cost after completion of individual projects.
2013 Federal Thresholds

Individual Assistance

44 CFR - There is no set threshold for recommending IA, but the following averages may prove useful to States and voluntary agencies as they develop plans and programs to meet the needs of disaster survivors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Small states &lt;2 mill pop.</th>
<th>Medium states 2-10 mill pop.</th>
<th>Large states &gt;10 mill pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major/destroyed homes</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the scenario above, Texas falls in the large state category.
FEMA Thresholds

If the determination is made to have the Governor request a **Presidential** declaration, the following information will be submitted:

- Confirmation the State Emergency Plan was executed;
- Description of state/local response efforts, housing/infrastructure impact, voluntary agency assistance provided, 12-month disaster history; &
- Types and extent of additional Federal aid required.
Emergency Declaration Thresholds

If the determination is made to have the Governor request an **emergency** declaration, the following information will be submitted:

1. A federal government agency affirms that a potential major disaster is imminent, i.e. NOAA.

2. Confirmation the State Emergency Plan was executed;
Emergency Declaration Thresholds

3. Direct Federal Assistance is needed

OR

Evacuation orders have been issued for 3+ counties or a geographical area with a combined population of 100,000+
SBA Thresholds

• The Small Business Administration (SBA) will consider issuing an SBA declaration if, there are two primary thresholds for the State of Texas:
  • 25 or more damages homes /businesses
  • Homes/businesses must have at least 40% uninsured loss
Fire Management Assistance Grant
Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Thresholds

for fire response activities

Before an initial grant under an FMAGP declaration is approved, the State must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meets or exceeds one of two thresholds:

1. Individual Fire Cost Threshold
2. Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold
Individual Fire Cost Threshold

Individual Fire Cost Threshold for Texas in 2013 is $1,722,471.

26,112,692 (Texas population) X 5% X $1.37

A declared individual fire that meets this threshold would be funded.

for fire response activities
Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), cont.

for fire response activities

Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold

Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold for Texas in 2013 is $5,167,413.

3 X Individual Fire Cost Threshold of $1,722,471

A declared fire that put the State over that threshold and any future declared fires for the calendar year would be funded.
Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), cont.

for fire response activities

Cumulative Fire Cost Threshold

Texas met the cumulative threshold last year with the Livermore Ranch Fire Complex on May 7th in Jeff Davis County with a cost of $11.9 Mil
What Goes Into an FMAG Decision

• A state request must be submitted while the fire is burning *uncontrolled* and is *threatening 100 homes*.

• In addition, FEMA considers availability of *resources*; fire danger *conditions* and potential *economic impact*.

• In consultation, a **US Forest Service Principal Advisor**, the **FEMA Regional Administrator** develops a summary and recommendation and makes a decision.
Reporting Costs

Agencies should report the response and costs for all fires throughout a calendar year to the Texas Forest Service (TFS). This info is used to calculate both individual and cumulative thresholds.

Report to TFS website –
http://firereporting.tamu.edu
Other Primary Assistance

- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)
  - $500,000

- Texas Department of Agriculture
  - $350,000 CDBG grant (75/25 match)

- US Department of Agriculture—Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - Up to $30,000 in loans for physical and production losses.
Recovery Grant Advice

• Have a person familiar with grant management oversee the grant.
• Track all documents related to the project, i.e. invoices, bids, timesheets, etc.
• Establish a good organized filing system
• Be familiar with federal and state grant guidance, i.e. 2CFR, TDEM grant agreement, etc.
Recovery Grant Advice

Common issues that come up...

• Poor project accounting
• Poor DAC accounting
• Poor insurance allocation
• Poor contracting practices
• Excessive equipment charges
• Run time logs missing
• Duplication of benefits

• Unrelated costs
• Unapplied credits
• Unsupported costs
Federal Recovery Timelines

- Disaster occurs
- DSO package submitted to TDEM
- State request to FEMA and Gov. issues Proc.
- Add on programs or counties
- Submittal of RPA
- Registration for IA

- Jurisdictions have 6 mo. to complete emergency work, (debris and emergency protective measures). Extensions may be given.

- Jurisdictions have 18 mo. to complete permanent work (structures). Extensions may be given.
Managing Expectations in Recovery

• Exercise your recovery annex (damage assessment teams, letters, local declaration etc.
• Be familiar with required thresholds for state/federal assistance
• Be prepared for state/federal assessment teams

And...
Managing Expectations in Recovery

• Ensure the person managing a disaster grant is familiar with grant management

• Assistance is there, but work is required in providing supporting documentation, managing the grant and always knowing what’s going on regarding your grant.
Questions

This isn’t the end, it’s the start