

From State to National: Damage Assessment Collection & Coordination

June 5, 2023

Q&A: 1 of 2

Question: Daniel: I don't see well defined criteria for Destroyed/Major/Minor (i.e. FEMA DA Guide Criteria) in your guide so that an assessor can better choose Major, Minor, Affected), especially for the difference between MH vs SFR/MFR. Is there another how-to guide, or is this an enhancement being worked??

Answer: The damage categories are actually explained in our training that we conduct at the local level. What I neglected to mention in my presentation was that our regional coordinators (each cover about 5 counties) hold regular roll-outs with local jurisdictions to talk about the damage categories and what they mean. We're also linking to the PDA pocket guide from the user guide to help define those categories.

Question: How are cost estimates developed?

Answer: There are algorithms developed in the Recovery Front Office at FEMA HQ by the Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Programs. There are a number of factors for IA like insurance. Those should be publicly available. You can also get them from your PDA Regional Coordinators who can provide a spreadsheet version that you can plug numbers into.

Question: Daniel: For the substantial damage tool, is the overall substantial damage percentage calculated from the individual element damages, or does the assessor manually enter that percentage?

Answer: It is based upon a percent damage for each category, then a total look at what each percentage totals to (weighted by certain elements/categories defined by our DLCD partners).

Question: Can US&R rapid assessment data set be used as a stand in for an initial assessment for the FEMA FACTS system?

Answer: There have been many conversations on this with Response. That data has been used to help inform PDAs. They do not have the same schema or enough information to serve on their own but can shorten the amount of data that might need to be collected.

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Question: Hello, my organization is set up to perform damage assessment using ESRI's Collector App. Since survey123 is also an ESRI product, how would you foresee my Org sharing our data with FEMA if an emergency happened ??

Answer: I'd suggest a group on ArcGIS Online that includes representatives from your FEMA region. That's what we're doing here in Oregon. Knowing who is who is the most important thing!

Question: Can we have the speaker's email?

Answer: daniel.stoelb@oem.oregon.gov

Question: Hi Daniel, can you give me an idea of the data that you submitted that was most important for FEMA, i.e., pictures, approx monetary value of damage, etc.?? I want to be sure my Collector app is asking the right questions at the beginning...

Answer: I'd suggest taking a look at the FEMA IA template to see. For us, that's where we started, then added some state specific information (substantial damage assessment info and business info).