

# WHEN IS A DISASTER A DISASTER?

## EVENT OCCURS

Local incident management is activated



COSP responds & gathers data,  
List of those impacted sent to SEMA



SEMA assesses damage; Preliminary  
Damage Assessment—PDA.  
At this point, Missouri's Governor  
forwards to FEMA KC a request for  
Federal Disaster Declaration.



FEMA KC office forwards data  
to FEMA DC.



FEMA DC analyzes data, and makes  
recommendation to the President.

- A Federal Disaster Declaration triggers Federal agency involvement.
- Individuals apply for assistance; decisions made on a case by case basis from agencies i.e. SBA, FEMA, etc.

Note: This is the only point where payments are made in disaster situation and local governments have NO input.

*For more information about  
St. Peters Emergency  
Management and disaster  
information, please contact:*

Sgt. Ed Gilliam

Director,

Office of Emergency

Management

636.477.6600, ext. 3522

or

Missouri State Emergency  
Management Agency (SEMA)

573.526.9100



# GUIDE TO DISASTER RELIEF



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## DISASTER STEPS

**1. Local Response:** All disasters begin with a local response. Local emergency management officials check out areas impacted by the disaster plus citizens and businesses should report property damage to the local Emergency Management Director (EMD). The St. Peters EMD is Sgt. Ed Gilliam of the St. Peters Police Department. He can be reached at 636.477.6600, ext. 3522. You can also file a concern 24 hours a day by contacting the St. Peters Citizen Action Center at 636.477.6600, ext. 1265.

**2. Local Government Requests Assistance:** If the local response capabilities are overwhelmed, local emergency officials may request assistance and send damage information to the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

**3. State Emergency Declaration:** Based on information provided by SEMA, the Missouri Governor may issue an Executive Order for a State of Emergency for specific counties. The executive order allows state agency resources to assist local governments including cities and counties in the disaster response.

**4. Joint Damage Assessments:** The Governor may request a Federal/State Joint Damage Assessment. The Joint Damage Assessment Team is composed of SEMA, FEMA, and SBA officials who tour damaged areas with local officials. This information is collected and analyzed, and submitted to the Governor of Missouri. The Governor then decides whether to ask for a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

**5. Requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration:** If the amount of damage meets pre-established guidelines, the Governor may ask for the Presidential Disaster Declaration. The request is submitted through FEMA Region VII in Kansas City. After reviewing the information, the President makes a decision on the Governor's request for a disaster declaration.

**6. Presidential Disaster Declaration:** After reviewing the information and recommendations presented by FEMA, the President decides whether or not to issue a Presidential Disaster Declaration. If the President issues the Disaster Declaration, this triggers federal agency responses. Individuals would then have the opportunity to

apply for assistance through FEMA. At this point, federal agencies review each request on a case-by-case basis and make decisions on what kind, if any assistance will be offered.

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## FEDERAL AND SBA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

If the Governor's formal disaster request is approved and the President issues a Disaster Declaration, there are several types of assistance:

**Small Business Administration Disaster Declaration—**This kind of assistance can help households and businesses with low-interest loans.

**US. Department of Agriculture Disaster Declaration—**This kind of assistance helps farmers and agricultural producers recover from an agricultural or natural disaster. Applicants work through their local Farm Service Agency on the application process.

**President's Disaster Declaration—**The President may declare that a major disaster or emergency exists, thus activating an array of Federal programs to assist in the response and recovery effort. Not all programs are activated for every disaster. Programs are activated on needs found during damage assessment and any subsequent information that may be discovered.

**Emergency Disaster Assistance—**This assistance helps cities and counties declared disaster areas with emergency protective services directly related to eligible emergency protective measures, and debris removal from public property and public rights of way.

**President's Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance—**helps individuals and households in counties declared disaster areas begin the recovery process after a disas-

ter. Individual Assistance Programs include Temporary Housing, Emergency Living Expenses, Individuals and Households, Minimum Essential Repairs, Disaster Unemployment and other programs.

The first step is to call the FEMA telephone registration number. This number will be made available to the public or may be requested through the St. Peters Emergency Management Director. By calling this number and registering the claim, FEMA will begin the process of reviewing information and deciding what, if any, assistance will be made available on a case-by-case basis.

**President's Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance—**helps cities and counties repair or replace damaged public facilities within a federally declared disaster area. Public Assistance is divided into different types and categories: Emergency Work or Permanent Work. Emergency Work includes debris removal and emergency protective services. Permanent Work categories include: Roads and Bridges, Water Control Facilities, Buildings and Equipment, Utilities, Parks, Recreational Facilities and other items.

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