



## Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

### Disaster Declaration Process

<b>Step One</b>	Disasters are first and foremost local events. Most disasters are handled by local government with minimal or no state assistance. At the onset of a disaster or emergency, local emergency responders, joined by volunteers and the private sector are the first to be involved.
<b>Step Two</b>	A local jurisdiction may declare a “state of emergency” exists when they have sustained widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property. A local declaration ensures the response and recovery aspects of the emergency operations plan have been activated, and local resources are being utilized to the fullest extent possible.
<b>Step Three</b>	If recovery efforts are beyond the ability of local government, the community may turn to the state to request assistance. All requests for assistance are channeled through the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD).
<b>Step Four</b>	The MSP/EMHSD reviews requests for state disaster assistance and makes recommendations to the Governor’s Office. The Governor’s authority, granted by Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended, may include mobilizing state government agencies to provide necessary support and assistance to local authorities.
<b>Step Five</b>	If the resources of state and local government are unable to cope with the emergency or disaster, the Governor may request assistance through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region V Office.
<b>Step Six</b>	At the request of the Governor, FEMA may conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA), in cooperation with state and local emergency management officials. The results of the PDA will be reviewed by state officials and the Governor’s Office and used as a basis for determining whether to request federal financial assistance.
<b>Step Seven</b>	Should the state request federal disaster assistance, FEMA will review the request and make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final determination on any disaster aid to be provided to the state. It is important to remember the goal of disaster assistance is <u>not</u> to make individuals, businesses, or government entities whole again, but to restore the community to a level that meets expected health and safety considerations. *Note: In most cases, there is a 25 percent cost share.



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## Overview of Disaster Declarations and Assistance

### Local Declaration

- Immediately following an emergency situation, local jurisdictions are charged with conducting damage assessments and providing the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) with notification of the nature and extent of damage and response costs within the affected areas.
- A local jurisdiction may declare a “state of emergency” exists when they have sustained widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.

### Governor’s Declaration

- Local jurisdictions may submit a request for a state of emergency or disaster under Public Act 390, as amended, when the situation is beyond the capability and control of local government affecting public health and safety.
- The MSP/EMHSD reviews requests for state assistance taking into local damage assessment data, and then provides recommendations to the Governor’s Office.
- The Governor can declare a state of emergency or disaster to provide a local jurisdiction with state assistance in the form of personnel, supplies, equipment, materials, or monetary support. A state of disaster or emergency declaration is designed to provide, in accordance with the Michigan Emergency Management Plan, state assistance to support local response efforts in addressing threats to public health and safety.

### Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund (Section 19 of Public Act 390, as amended)

- Under extraordinary circumstances and upon the declaration of a state disaster or emergency, the Governor may authorize the expenditure from the disaster contingency fund under Section 30.419 (Section 19) to provide one-time funding to a county or municipality when federal assistance is not available.
- Section 30.419 (Section 19) provides reimbursement for public damage and direct loss from the disaster or emergency and cannot be applied to private damage incurred by home or business owners.
- Assistance under Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund may include up to \$100,000 or 10 percent of the total annual operating budget for the preceding fiscal year of the county or municipality.
- However, this is only done “if the demands placed upon the funds of a county or municipality in coping with a particular disaster or emergency are unreasonably great” and that there is a demonstrated exhaustion of local effort.

### Federal Declaration

- In the event state and local government resources are unable to cope with the situation, the Governor may request federal assistance through the regional office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- FEMA disaster assistance typically falls into three categories, including Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Assistance. FEMA assesses a number of factors to determine federal assistance based on the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster event.
- One of the criteria used for receiving federal Public Assistance (aid to government, tribal, and certain non-profits), is the statewide and countywide per capita impact indicator to evaluate the impact of the disaster at the state level and county level. To determine the threshold, the per capita amount (see below) is multiplied by the respective population (state or county) based on the 2010 Census. The statewide threshold must be met in order to receive federal Public Assistance, and each jurisdiction must meet their respective countywide threshold. As of October 1, 2013, Michigan’s statewide per capita impact indicator is \$1.39 and the countywide per capita impact indicator is \$3.50.