

Category B - Emergency Protective Measures

Emergency protective measures are those activities undertaken by a community before, during, and following a disaster that are necessary to do one of the following:

- eliminate or reduce an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety; or
- eliminate or reduce an immediate threat of significant damage to improved public or private property through cost-effective measures.

Generally, those prudent actions taken by a community to warn residents, reduce the disaster damage, ensure the continuation of essential public services, and protect lives and public health or safety are eligible for assistance. Such activities should be evaluated to ensure that they meet the criteria of the law. The following list provides examples of activities that may be eligible:

- Warning of risks and hazards.
- Search and rescue, including transportation of disaster victims.
- Emergency medical facilities. Eligible costs include any additional temporary facilities and equipment required to treat disaster victims when existing facilities are overloaded or damaged. Ineligible costs include any costs for emergency medical treatment (including vaccinations), labor costs (physicians, medical personnel, etc.), follow-on treatment, increased operational and administrative costs, and loss of revenue. (See [FEMA Policy 9525.4, Medical Care and Evacuations.](#))
- Emergency evacuations of medical and custodial care facilities. Eligible costs include transportation and extraordinary labor costs for non-medical staff assisting in the evacuations. Ineligible costs include medical staff and supplies utilized during the evacuations. (See [FEMA Policy 9525.4, Medical Care and Evacuations.](#))
- Facility costs (but not labor costs) for emergency mass care and shelter operations provided by volunteer agencies. Eligible costs generally include supplies, durable medical equipment, security, cleanup, minor repairs, and increased utility costs. Lease costs are not eligible except in the most extraordinary of disaster situations.
- Facility costs (including labor costs allowed under [FEMA Policy 9525.7, Labor Costs - Emergency Work](#)) for emergency mass care and shelter operations provided by governmental entities when volunteer agencies are unable to provide emergency mass care and shelter. Eligible costs generally include supplies, durable medical equipment, security, cleanup, minor repairs, and increased utility costs. Lease costs are not eligible costs except in the most extraordinary of disaster situations.
- Expenses of PNPs for providing emergency protective measures for their facilities are eligible if their facilities are otherwise eligible for assistance.
- Security in the disaster area.

- Provision of food, water, ice, and other essential needs at central distribution points for use by the local population.
- Temporary generators for facilities that provide health and safety services.
- Rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for household pets and service animals if claimed by a State or local government. Service animals will be sheltered with their owners in congregate shelters. (See [FEMA Policy 9523.18, Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering](#).)
- The provisions of rescue, evacuation, movement of supplies and persons, care, shelter, and essential needs for human populations affected by the outbreak and spread of influenza pandemic. Three conditions must be met for a pandemic to start: a) a new influenza virus subtype must emerge for which there is little or no human immunity; b) it must infect humans and cause illness; and c) it must spread easily and sustainably (continue without interruption) among humans.
- Provision of temporary facilities for schools (public and PNP) and essential community services. Examples of temporary facilities include construction of a temporary bridge or detour road to replace an essential crossing facility, temporary hookup of utilities, and essential temporary buildings for schools or government offices. Eligibility criteria for temporary relocation are outlined on pages 38-39. (See [FEMA Policy 9523.3, Provision of Temporary Relocation Facilities](#).)
- Activation of a State or local emergency operations center to coordinate and direct the response to a disaster event. Costs must be associated with a time frame related to circumstances justified by the nature of the emergency or disaster. Often an emergency operations center is used to direct response activities for a period of time, and then its primary activity shifts to managing the Federal assistance.
- Because the Stafford Act places limitations on reimbursement for the costs of administering the Federal grant, the applicant must keep track of which duties are being performed by the center's personnel. Applicant pre-disaster pay policies related to overtime, compensatory time, and Fair Labor Standards Act designations are integral to eligibility determinations regarding costs.
- Demolition and removal of damaged public and private buildings and structures that pose an immediate threat to the safety of the general public. The threat must be identified by local officials according to established local ordinances and verified by State and Federal officials. In some instances, securing a damaged building from access is sufficient to alleviate the threat and demolition is not necessary. Buildings that were condemned as a safety hazard before the disaster are not eligible. (See [FEMA Policy 9523.4, Demolition of Private and Public Facilities](#).)
- Removal of health and safety hazards. Such activities may include the following:
 - disposal of dead animals;
 - pumping of trapped floodwaters that threaten improved property;

- pumping of flooded basements, but only if there is a widespread need affecting numerous homes and businesses in the community;
 - pumping of septic tanks or decontamination of wells, but only if there is a widespread pollution threat; and.
 - vector control of rodents or insects when there is a serious health hazard. A serious health threat exists when a specific threat posed by the increased vector population is identified. Verification of the threat by the Federal Centers for Disease Control or State or local health agencies in accordance with established ordinances is required. [See [FEMA Policy 9523.10, Vector Control \(Mosquito Abatement\)](#).]
- Construction of emergency protective measures to protect lives or improved property to include the following:
 - temporary levees, berms, dikes, and sandbagging by itself or on top of a levee;
 - buttressing, bracing, or shoring of a damaged structure to protect against further damage to the structure, or to protect the general public;
 - emergency repairs to protective facilities (work is limited to that which would provide protection from a 5-year event or would restore the facility to its pre-disaster design, whichever is less); and placement of sand on a beach to serve as protection of improved property from waves and flooding (the same criteria regarding the level of protection apply).
- Emergency measures to prevent further damage to an eligible facility. Boarding windows or doors, covering the roof, and remediation to stop the spread of mold in the immediate aftermath of the disaster are examples of this work.
- Restoration of access. If a privately owned access (such as a driveway, road, or bridge) is damaged, funds for restoration of this access may be eligible either under FEMA's Individuals and Households Program or FEMA's PA Program. In cases where homes are inaccessible as a result of the damage, work to establish emergency access may be eligible under PA if an eligible applicant has legal authority to perform the work and provided that the emergency access economically eliminates the need for temporary housing. The PA Program staff should coordinate with the Individuals and Households Program staff to eliminate duplication of effort and funds.

Other Types of Emergency Work

Specific eligibility criteria may also apply to the provision of emergency communications, public transportation, building inspections, and snow removal. These criteria are defined as follows.

Emergency Communications. The communications system in a local community may be damaged by a disaster to the extent that the local officials are unable to carry out their duties of providing essential community services or responding to the disaster. A temporary emergency communications system, such as a mobile radio system or cellular telephones, may be needed. Such a system is meant to supplement the portion of the community's communications that remains operable, not to replace or expand the pre-disaster system. The community is expected to repair the damaged system on an expedited basis so that the assistance can be terminated when there is no longer an emergency need.

The temporary system may be eligible for assistance, but only through Direct Federal Assistance. FEMA, through a Mission Assignment, would use appropriate Federal agencies to perform the eligible work. See pages 76-78 for additional discussion regarding [Direct Federal Assistance and Mission Assignments](#).

Emergency Public Transportation. The essential portions of a community's transportation system may be damaged by a disaster to such an extent that the vital functions of community life are disrupted. This situation may involve damage to buses, a subway system, or a bridge between two sections of the city. For some of these damaged facilities, replacement with temporary facilities may provide the solution. In other situations, there may not be a specific damaged facility, but there is still a need to supplement existing transportation.

This condition may result from temporary changes in the location of government facilities or residential areas or a need to access different shopping areas. The supplemental system must be required to ensure access to public places, employment centers, post offices, and schools so that a normal pattern of life may be restored as soon as possible.

The emergency transportation, such as extra buses or trains, additional school buses to transport relocated students, or new bus routes, may be eligible for assistance, but only through Direct Federal Assistance. FEMA, through a Mission Assignment, would use appropriate Federal agencies to perform the eligible work.

The damaged facilities should be restored, or the need for supplemental transportation should be addressed, as soon as possible so that the assistance can be terminated when there is no longer an emergency need.

Building Inspection. Safety inspections are eligible if necessary to establish whether a damaged structure poses an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety. Inspections associated with a determination of substantial damage under the National Flood Insurance Program, the determination if a building should be elevated or relocated, a determination of what repairs are needed to make a building habitable, and code enforcement during reconstruction are not eligible, because these inspections go beyond the scope of a safety inspection. (See [FEMA Policy 9523.2, Eligibility of Building Inspections in a Post-Disaster Environment](#).)