

Functional Annex N-1 (Damage Assessment)
Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan

Damage Assessment

COORDINATING AGENCY:	County Damage Assessment Team
SUPPORT AGENCIES:	Jurisdiction Damage Assessment Teams Hamilton County Facilities Management Hamilton County Planning and Development Hamilton County Public Health Hamilton County Metropolitan Sewer District Cincinnati Water Works American Red Cross, Cincinnati Area Chapter Local Public Utility Companies Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Ohio Division of Soil and Water Resources

I. INTRODUCTION

This annex provides guidance for the assessment and reporting of physical damage resulting from disasters. Damage assessment will help establish priorities for allocation of resources and identify requirements for conducting recovery operations and will assist in the determination of whether the event is significant enough to request assistance from other jurisdictions.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. A damage assessment effort will be initiated by each affected jurisdiction in Hamilton County, as soon as practical, following the occurrence of a disaster.
2. Where possible and when appropriate, pictures will be taken of damaged areas and maps will be used to show the location of damage sites.
3. When damage assessment is carried out in conjunction with a request for state or federal disaster assistance, the County Emergency Management Director will coordinate with Ohio Emergency Management.
4. When possible, the County Emergency Management Director and other appropriate local government officials will participate in damage assessment procedure training.
5. Damage to public and private property should be noted as such.
6. Commercial and residential private properties should be categorized separately.

B. Assumptions

1. The prompt and accurate assessment of damage to property following a disaster will be of vital concern to officials.
2. Comprehensive damage assessment evaluation is necessary to support requests for recovery programs offered at the state and federal levels. An accurate damage assessment will also support post disaster mitigation efforts that result in building codes and land-use

regulations that could reduce much of the structural damage that could result from future disasters.

3. Higher levels of government will provide assistance in developing damage assessment reports to support requests for major disaster declarations.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Damage Assessment consists of four phases

1. Rapid Damage Assessment (Windshield Survey)

The RDA process, also known as a windshield survey, is conducted immediately after an event. This assessment focuses on immediate life-threatening situations. Rapid assessment provides the incident commander and the EOC director with information to assess the size of the event and the extent of the damage, in addition to prioritizing facilities critical to government response and recovery activities.

2. Initial Damage Assessment

The IDA process will provide additional, more detailed, information to determine if an emergency declaration is required and if assistance from other jurisdictions will be required. This assessment is more detailed than the rapid assessment, and begins to identify damage to taxable and exempt property as well as to pre-identified critical infrastructure. The IDA should be completed within 72 hours of an event.

3. Preliminary Damage Assessment

The PDA process is generally performed by teams consisting of American Red Cross, Local, and State agency representatives. Teams consist of technical staff who can evaluate emergency and recovery project costs.

4. Secondary Damage Assessment

The SDA is performed by teams or technical staff to determine if buildings, roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure are safe for use or occupancy. The first priority for assessment is generally given to buildings, roads, and bridges critical to response and recovery efforts, as well as facilities essential to the continuation of government services. This assessment is a collaborative effort between assessors, engineers, building officials and voluntary agencies, and will be coordinated by the Damage Assessment Unit Leader.

B. Relationships between Levels of Government

1. County

- a. The County Regional Operations Center will be activated in support of disaster activity
- b. The County Damage Assessment Team Leader will be designated, and is usually attached to the Planning Section

2. Local

Each jurisdiction will assign a Damage Assessment Team Leader in order to report damage to the county Damage Assessment Team Leader

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

- A. When a disaster strikes, a survey of the devastated area is done to determine the number of families affected, homes destroyed or damaged, number of buildings destroyed or damaged, boundary of the disaster area, what kind of relief is needed where, and any physical problems regarding transportation and communication systems.

- B. The Damage Assessment Team Leader will work with the Emergency Management Director or Sheriff in obtaining this information to ensure county, state, and federal resources are provided for a quick and thorough recovery by the community.
- C. Personnel from City and County Government as well as private sector agencies may be involved with the damage assessment team. Some of these people may be County Engineers, American Red Cross, City Engineer, City Building Inspections, Public Works Director, Realtors, voluntary agencies (specializing in detailed damage assessment for long term recovery operations) and Civil Air Patrol.
- D. Primary Assignment of Responsibility

1. Hamilton County Engineer's Office will:

Provide personnel and equipment for the following engineering emergency activities within the guidelines set by Ohio Statutes:

- a. Damage assessment and repair within the public right of way on roadways maintained by the County Engineer's Office
- b. Engineering reconnaissance.
- c. Assist with demolition, emergency repairs, or stabilization of unsafe public structure
- d. Ensure emergency access where needed.

2. Hamilton County Facilities Management Department will:

- a. Provide personnel and equipment for the following public works emergency activities.
 - 1.) Damage assessment of county property.
 - 2.) Provide technical assistance for inspections, emergency repairs, or demolition of damaged county property.
- b. Provide equipment and personnel for Damage Assessment operations.

3. Hamilton County Planning and Development will:

- a. Provide personnel for building inspections and flood damage assessments as needed at the site of the emergency.
- b. Provide technical assistance for inspections, emergency repairs, or demolition of damaged public buildings.

4. Hamilton County Public Health will:

- a. Coordinate with Ohio EPA and local agencies to maintain and/or restore sanitation standards for public works facilities in the disaster area.
- b. Coordinate with Ohio EPA and the affected Public Works agency to issue boil water advisories and alerts with respect to damaged public works facilities in the disaster area.

5. Jurisdiction Damage Assessment Team:

- a. Conduct damage assessment of jurisdiction by Damage Assessment Team Leader
 - b. Submit damage assessment report to County Damage Assessment Team Leader, including:
 - i. Damage to publicly owned structures, processes, and critical infrastructure
 - ii. Damage to private property, including private residences, businesses, and agricultural entities
6. Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Resources will:
- Inspect dikes, levies, dams and related structures.
7. American Red Cross, Cincinnati Area Chapter will:
- Coordinate with volunteer agencies and work groups to obtain information and referral sources for emergency repairs and debris removal.
8. Local Public Utilities Companies will:
- a. Provide emergency power damage information updates to the Regional Operations Center.
 - b. Support evaluation and status of repair of public utilities systems following county & state-declared emergencies.
9. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency may:
- a. Inspect and evaluate public water sources following state-declared emergencies as directed.
 - b. Support the decontamination of public waterways during state-declared emergencies.
 - c. Coordinate with Public Health to restore sanitation standards at the disaster site
10. Cincinnati Water Works will:
- a. Provide damage assessment information and status of repairs to water systems.
 - b. Coordinate the delivery of potable water.
 - c. Coordinate the issuance of boil water advisories and alerts.
11. Metropolitan Sewer District will:
- Provide damage assessment information and status of repairs to sewer system.

V. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

- A. ESF #3 — Engineering and Public Works organizations are responsible for the maintenance of their own agreements, SOPs, SOGs, MOUs and Resource Listings that document the equipment, supplies, and services available to them during emergencies. Additional support needs during an

emergency may be requested through the Hamilton County EOC to ESF #7 — Resource Support.

- B. Additional required resources may be purchased when needed during emergencies.

VI. TECHNICAL RESOURCES

- A. Hamilton County Debris Management Annex Functional Annex C-1