



# Damage Assessment: The Jurisdiction's Responsibility



## Damage Assessment:

Damage Assessment is a process to determine the severity and magnitude of an emergency on the public and private sectors in your community.

Not conducting a damage assessment or doing so poorly can have devastating effects on the response and recovery effort including but not limited to:

- Denial of State or Federal recovery funds
- A weakened or delayed response effort
- Inappropriate priorities for your response and recovery activities

## Jurisdiction's Role:

Every jurisdiction within Hamilton County needs to designate someone from your jurisdiction who can be the lead for the damage assessment process. This person may come from the fire department, public works department, police department, or another administrative function. The goal is to designate someone who is familiar with the community and will be available to coordinate damage assessment immediately following an emergency.

### Responsibilities of the Local Damage Assessment Coordinator:

#### During/After an Emergency:

- Notify Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) when damage has occurred in your community immediately following an event
- Identify impacted areas in your community and oversee the deployment/assignment of your jurisdiction's Damage Assessment Teams immediately following an event
- Submit damage assessment forms to Hamilton County EMHSA as directed by an email that will be sent after an emergency has occurred

#### Before an Emergency:

- Attend Hamilton County damage assessment coordinator training
- Develop and document the process for activating your jurisdiction's Damage Assessment Team following an emergency

Every jurisdiction within Hamilton County should also identify individuals who can become members of Damage Assessment Teams. Damage Assessment Teams go out to evaluate and document the damage from the emergency and the impact. Those identified must attend the Hamilton County damage assessment training to understand the damage assessment process.