

## **PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) are organized, systematic field surveys of the disaster area by joint federal/state PDA teams, assisted and guided by local officials. PDAs must be conducted in accordance with, and as required by, federal regulations (44 CFR, Part 206, Section 206.35) prior to a gubernatorial request for a Presidential disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act.

Information regarding disaster impacts gathered by PDA teams is used by the state to: a) Make an initial determination of the impact of a disaster upon the state; b) Determine the need for federal disaster assistance; and c) Develop documentation to support a request for federal disaster assistance;

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS) and FEMA coordinate the PDA effort. The following CT departments may serve on (or provide written reports to) the joint Federal/State PDA teams: Administrative Services, Agriculture, Construction Services, Consumer Protection, Correction, Economic and Community Development, Energy and Environmental Protection; Housing, Insurance, Policy and Management, Public Health, and Transportation.

There are two types of PDA teams, known as Individual Assistance (IA) teams and Public Assistance (PA) teams. An IA team assesses impacts upon private property including homes and businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration and the American Red Cross will also participate on the IA teams. PA teams assess damages to public facilities and estimate other public expenditures for such things as debris removal, overtime costs, etc.

### **LOCAL OFFICIALS**

Towns may be surveyed by either one or two PDA teams (an IA team and/or a PA team) depending upon the nature of damages sustained. IA and PA teams will usually arrive independently of one another.

Chief executives of disaster-impacted communities will be contacted by the PDA coordination team or by a DESPP/DEMHS Regional Coordinator and notified of the day on which their town is scheduled for a survey by an IA or PA team. Chief executives should provide the PDA coordination team and/or Regional Coordinator with the name and phone number of a local point of contact that PDA teams should call prior to the team's departure for the town.

Local officials should assign the appropriate municipal officials provide information and participate on the PDA teams, such as: emergency management director, finance director, public works director, town engineer, road foreman, local building inspector, fire marshal, tax assessor, school representative, and risk manager.

Municipal officials should have the following information available for the Public Assistance (PA) PDA team at the time the PA team reaches the agreed upon rendezvous point:

- 1) Local road maps for use by the PDA team
- 2) Lists of damage sites (with photos and damage description information on sites, if available)
- 3) Estimates of additional payable hours or overtime worked by local government employees in response to the emergency
- 4) Other costs to local government of responding to the emergency including the costs of purchases, rentals and contracts
- 5) Information regarding insurance coverage on municipal facilities
- 6) A breakdown of the local budget (minus education figures) showing amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year for: a) Total local budget (minus education figures); b) The Highway/Public Works Department; c) Road maintenance
- 7) The current balances of the: a) Total local budget (minus education); b) Highway/Public Works Department budget; and c) Road maintenance account