

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

MT Disaster & Emergency Services
406-324-4777



OBJECTIVES

To understand the purpose of disaster and emergency services

To understand the difference between preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation

To explain what steps should be taken before, during, and after a disaster

To share how we can help fulfill the purpose of disaster and emergency service

PURPOSE OF DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- To provide for prompt and timely reaction to an emergency or disaster
- To ensure that preparation of this state will be adequate to deal with disasters or emergencies
- To preserve the lives and property of the people of this state to the fullest extent practicable

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY VS. DISASTER?

Emergency

- The imminent threat of a disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely action can avert or minimize

Disaster

- The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or artificial cause, including tornadoes, windstorms, snowstorms, wind-driven water, high water, floods, wave action, earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, volcanic action, fires, explosions, air or water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, blight, droughts, infestations, riots, sabotage, hostile military or paramilitary action, disruption of state services, accidents involving radiation byproducts or other hazardous materials, outbreak of disease, bioterrorism, or incidents involving weapons of mass destruction

MISSION OF DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

- Our mission is to lead a comprehensive emergency management program to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate disasters.

WHAT IS...?

Response

- Response is the support provided at the time of an emergency or disaster to community first responders to aid life safety and property protection efforts.

Recovery

- Recovery is the process after an emergency or disaster that helps restore services to pre-disaster conditions.
- Communities may be eligible for financial assistance for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and restoring public infrastructure.

Mitigation

- Mitigation is the effort to reduce the impacts disasters have on people and communities.

Preparedness

- Preparedness is the activities conducted before a disaster to ensure the community can respond to, recover from, and mitigate future disasters.

Response is the support provided at the time of an emergency or disaster to community first responders to aid life safety and property protection efforts.

RESPONSE

THE ALL-HAZARDS RESPONSE PROCESS

Incident Occurs

Local Government Responds

Local
Government
Declaration

Mutual Aid

County Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

State Assistance

State
Government
Declaration

Private/Volunteer Organizations
Active in Disaster (VOAD)

State Agencies – National Guard

EMAC/NEMAC Assistance

Federal Assistance

Federal
Government
Declaration

National Response Framework

FEMA

Local Government Remains in Charge

WHAT DOES RESPONSE LOOK LIKE (THE ROLE OF A DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM)

Before

- Current Plans
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - Mutual Aid Agreements
 - Distribution Plan
 - Hazardous Material Response Plan
 - Continuity of Government Plan
 - Donations Management Plan
 - Evacuation Plan
 - Volunteer Management Plan
 - Sheltering Plan
 - Public Info / Info Management
- Identify Critical Infrastructure
- Identify Key Facilities & Systems
 - Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - Shelter Locations
 - Mass Notification Systems
- Train and Exercise/Practice
- Establish a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

During

- Implement Appropriate Plan
 - Incident Command System
 - Public Information Management
- Establish Key Facilities
 - EOC, Shelters
- Implement Mutual Aid Agreements (if needed)
- Draft Declaration
- Levy 2-mills (if needed)
- Track Costs

After

- De-mobilize resources
- Evaluate & Improve

RESPONSE – TAKE AWAY

- Ensuring an immediate and effective response starts with collaborating with partners organizations and developing strong plans, including municipalities
 - Current Emergency Operations Plan
 - Establishing a Local Emergency Planning Committee
 - Signing Local Declarations (Mayor signs for cities)
- Montana DES must ensure local plans are coordinated with state Disaster and Emergency Plan
- Review your Community Snapshot Tool

Did You Know...

- The top hazards in Montana are wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and severe weather
- Between 2014 – 2019
 - There were 120 local declarations filed with MT DES
 - There were 36 state declarations issued by the Governor
 - There were 6 federally declared disasters for Montana
- Between 2014 – 2019 Montana supported 8 states for 11 disasters with 418 personnel through state-to-state assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact

Recovery is the process after an emergency or disaster that helps restore services to pre-disaster conditions.

Communities may be eligible for financial assistance for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and restoring public infrastructure.

RECOVERY

WHAT DOES RECOVERY LOOK LIKE?

(THE ROLE OF A DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM)

Before

- Procurement Policy
- Permits
 - Gravel Pits (SHPO/DEQ)
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Fish Wildlife & Parks
 - DNRC for Flood Plains
- Maintenance Records
- Train Staff on Required Forms
 - Damage Inventory / Assessments

During

- Identify a Recovery Point of Contact
- Conduct Initial Damage Inventory / Assessments
- Check with the EOC (or designated contact) to ensure they are tracking costs

After

- Project Management
 - Scope the Project(s)
 - Submit Costs for Reimbursement
 - Closeout

RECOVERY – TAKE AWAY

- Success starts before the incident
 - Identified and trained people
 - Systems to track costs and project management
 - Know what policies and permits are needed
- Recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Plan for deliberate project management
- Manage the expectations of the community
 - Not all damages will be eligible for State or Federal assistance

Did You Know...

- In Montana there have been 12 Presidential Declarations in the last **10 years**
- 8 of 12 are complete. The average duration for these disasters was 54 months (4.5 yrs)
 - The quickest disaster recovery was just over 1 year
 - The longest disaster recovery was 8.5 years
- In this timeframe for Presidential Declarations, counties received \$80M in Federal funds and \$16M in State funds
- In this timeframe Counties have received 9.7 million in State funds for State Declarations
- There have been 2,256 projects for state and federal declarations (many with multiple sites on a project)

Mitigation is the effort to reduce the impacts disasters have on people and communities.

MITIGATION

WHAT DOES MITIGATION LOOK LIKE? (THE ROLE OF A DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM)

Before

- Current Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Identify Threats & Impacts
 - Capital Improvement Plan
- Procurement Policy
- Permits
- Maintenance Records
- Project Identification
- Application Development
- Project Management
 - Scope the Project(s)
 - Submit Costs for Reimbursement
 - Closeout

During

- N/A

After

- Identify Projects in the Impacted Area for Mitigation Work
- Application Development
- Project Management
 - Scope the Project(s)
 - Submit Costs for Reimbursement
 - Closeout

MITIGATION – TAKE AWAY

- Success
 - Maintain a Current Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Approved by FEMA
 - Adopted by local Jurisdiction
 - Ensure plan identifies community mitigation needs (planning and infrastructure/capital improvements)
 - Procurement
 - Local policy adopted and implemented
 - Become well versed in federal procurement requirements
 - Project Management
 - Cradle to Grave
 - Ensuring compliance requirements are adhered to and strong financial management system in place
 - Mitigation is a deliberate process
 - Manage the expectations of the community

Did You Know...

- Every \$1 spent in disaster mitigation saves communities \$6
- Montana's top 3 identified natural disasters:
 - Wildland and Rangeland Fires
 - 1992-2015: 6,279,523 acres burned in MT
 - From 2000-2017: 33 Federal Disaster Declarations in MT
 - 40,304.3 square miles in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
 - Flooding
 - 1974-2017: 14 Federal Disaster Declarations in MT totaling \$68,430,529 in damages
 - 5,760.3 square miles are exposed to flood risk
 - Earthquake
 - Since 1900 there have been 13 earthquakes with magnitudes of 5.5 or greater
 - 39,823 square miles are exposed to earthquake risk

Preparedness is the activities conducted before a disaster to ensure the community can respond to, recover from, and mitigate future disasters.

PREPAREDNESS

WHAT DOES PREPAREDNESS LOOK LIKE?

Response - Before

- Current Plans
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - Mutual Aid Agreements
 - Distribution Plan
 - Hazardous Material Response Plan
 - Continuity of Government Plan
 - Donations Management Plan
 - Evacuation Plan
 - Volunteer Management Plan
 - Sheltering Plan
 - Public Info / Info Management
- Identify Critical Infrastructure
- Identify Key Facilities & Systems
 - Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - Shelter Locations
 - Mass Notification Systems
- Train and Exercise/Practice
- Establish a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Recovery - Before

- Procurement Policy
- Permits
 - Gravel Pits (SHPO/DEQ)
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Fish Wildlife & Parks
 - DNRC for Flood Plains
- Maintenance Records
- Train Staff on Required Forms
 - Damage Inventory / Assessments

Mitigation - Before

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PREPAREDNESS – TAKE AWAY

- Planning
 - Written Plans, Procedures, Assessments
 - Policy and Permits
 - Memorandums of Understanding
- Training
 - First Responders, Elected Officials, Community Members
 - Include Partners (Neighbors or State)
- Exercise
 - Validate Plans and Training
 - Evaluate and Improve

Did You Know...

- Most Emergency Operations Plans were last adopted in 2011
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - 18 county/tribal plans have expired but are currently being updated
 - 18 additional county/tribal plans will expire by the end of 2020
- Percentage of County/Tribal Jurisdictions Reporting Having:

■ Continuity of Operations/Government	91%
■ Donations and Volunteer Management	41%
■ Evacuation	93%
■ Damage Assessments	43%
■ Resource Management	93%

HOW WE CAN HELP

- MT DES staff can review plans and provide training to local DES Coordinators and partners
- Staff compile the Community Snapshot Report
- Staff can help train local designees on using a Damage Inventory Tool and the types of permits and policies to have in place
- MT DES provides training for those interested in Mitigation Projects
- Help fill resource requests during a disaster
- Staff can identify grant opportunities for long-term mitigation projects

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Support the Local Workforce
 - Only 43% of local DES Coordinators are full-time
 - Roughly half of the local coordinators have been in their position more than 3 years.
- Identify Mitigation Opportunities
- Review your Emergency Operations Plan
- Review your Community Snapshot
 - Know your Strengths and Weaknesses
- Support your Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Support Stakeholder Coordination
- Manage Expectations During the Recovery Process

QUESTIONS

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Services

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