

ANNEX I – DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
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ANNEX I – DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. The majority of the hazard events that have been identified in Tucker County have the potential to cause damage. A planned damage assessment procedure is essential for effective response and recovery operations.
2. A preliminary damage assessment produces a descriptive measure of the severity, requirements and capabilities, effectiveness of initial response operations, and requirements for supplemental assistance.

B. Assumptions

1. A timely, accurate assessment of damages to public and private property will be a vital concern to county officials and will have a direct impact on the execution of recovery efforts.
2. Organizations with damage assessment responsibilities in Tucker County will provide adequate numbers of trained personnel who can conduct the varieties of damage assessments required following an emergency.
3. Higher levels of government will provide assistance in developing damage assessment reports to support requests for major disaster declarations.
4. The Tucker County Office of Emergency Management (TCOEM) will coordinate these damage assessments and provide them to the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM) in a timely manner.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The responsibility for damage assessment ultimately lies with the Chief Elected Officials (CEO) of Tucker County, who will use American Red Cross (ARC) damage assessment guidance when dealing with private dwellings.
2. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will train damage assessment personnel to provide for fast and accurate information collecting and forwarding to the Tucker County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

3. Damage assessment teams assigned by the Tucker County OEM will conduct initial damage assessments using fire and police personnel as soon as possible following an emergency and will provide this initial report of damages to the Tucker County EOC. The information will then be forwarded to the WVDHSEM within 12-hours of the emergency since state and federal assistance programs are dependent on these assessments.
 4. Release of any damage assessment information, if appropriate, will be coordinated by the Tucker County OEM Director and the County Public Information Officer (PIO).
 5. Damage assessment covers two (2) broad categories of information: public damage and private damage.
 - a. Public damage includes estimates of damage to government-owned facilities such as public buildings, sewage and water treatment facilities, and publicly-owned utilities, roads, bridges, parks, public schools, etc. Public damage also includes estimates of costs of government's emergency response, i.e. cost of debris removal, police and fire overtime, etc.
 - b. Private damage includes estimates of people displaced and in need of housing and the number of persons in shelters, number of injuries and fatalities, and the degree and dollar estimate of damage to private property, including homes, businesses, farms, and personal possessions.
 6. Structural loss is defined as follows: (1) destroyed – permanently uninhabitable, (2) major damage – cannot be repaired in 30 days or less, (3) minor damage – can be repaired within 30 days, and (4) affected – in need of repair but does not prevent habitation.
- B. Detailed Damage Assessment Activities
1. Appropriate damage assessment forms will be used for preliminary estimates and estimates for specific sites.
 2. These forms can be obtained locally from the Tucker County OEM.
- C. Federal Involvement
1. Under ESF #14 of the National Response Plan (NRP), federal forces may assist in predictive modeling for preliminary damage assessment activities if time permits.
 2. Federal assistance may be available to identify recovery projects that could/should be quickly implemented.

3. In collaboration with the WVDHSEM, federal forces will designate staff for damage assessment teams to assist in identifying and documenting the economic impact and losses avoided due to previous mitigation actions and developing new priorities for mitigation in the affected area.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. The appointed Damage Assessment Coordinator (DAC), an EOC staff position, shall be responsible for estimating, collecting, recording, evaluating, and disseminating intelligence to those concerned on the loss, suffering, or harm resulting from a disaster.
2. When the disaster is confined to the boundaries of, or inclusive of the municipalities, the mayors will provide personnel for staffing in the Damage Assessment Section (DAS) and shall be responsible for reporting to the group all damage assessment data pertaining to the town.

B. Responsibilities

1. Assessment of damages is the responsibility of the affected government. Reports of property damages in total numbers and degree of damages (destroyed, major, minor, affected) are required. Total dollar losses in current replacement or repair costs and the uninsured portion of the dollar losses are also needed. The dollar amounts will be estimated for the total replacement cost of each type of property.
 - a. Local governments make assessments for public and private property within their jurisdictions.
 - b. State departments and agencies assess damage to the properties under their cognizance.
2. In cases of serious and widespread damage, damage assessments may be conducted by the Damage Assessment Coordinator in the affected area. This person may be assisted as needed by state personnel in the affected area or augmented by state personnel from elsewhere. The OEM Director will make and assemble damage assessments covering the situation. These reports will be transmitted to the WVDHSEM.
3. When federal assistance is needed, a preliminary damage assessment may be made by FEMA, jointly with state government, to develop information on the severity and

magnitude of the situation. This assessment is used to make decisions on disaster declarations and/or other federal commitments.

4. Damage Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
 - a. Supervise situation status and damage assessments.
 - b. Directs the collection of information to determine the severity of damage caused by the disaster.
 - c. Coordinates the development of After Action Reports.
5. Law Enforcement and/or Fire Service Agencies
 - a. Number of fatalities (by name and/or address to avoid reporting duplications).
 - b. Number of injured (by name and/or address to avoid reporting duplications).
 - c. Other pertinent information that may become available to them during their response (evacuations, structural damage).
 - d. If sufficient personnel are available, law enforcement and/or fire service personnel may be called upon by the DAS to perform door-to-door verification of private sector losses, as is sometimes required when requesting federal assistance. Utilization of personnel for this purpose is preferable, in that these individuals are uniformed, ID carrying, and often recognized representatives of local government to whom victims can entrust personal information.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. During emergency or disaster situations, the Damage Assessment Coordinator will operate from the EOC and will coordinate damage assessment activities. All damage information will be forwarded to the plotter and posted in the EOC. Repairs to public facilities will begin as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those facilities that are critical to emergency response activities. County and municipal resources, including private sector resources, will be relied upon for most of the work with support from state, federal, and other jurisdictions, as available.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Administration

1. The Tucker County OEM will be responsible for all paperwork required for funding assistance requests, etc.

B. Logistics

1. The Tucker County OEM maintains a list of critical facilities located throughout the county.
2. The Tucker County OEM will provide training for damage assessment staff members.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. The line of succession for the damage assessment function is as follows:

1. Tucker County Commissioners
2. Chief Executive of the Jurisdiction(s) involved
3. OEM Director
4. Damage Assessment Coordinator (DAC)

B. The line of succession for the DAC is as follows:

1. Damage Assessment Coordinator
2. Designee

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. The OEM Director is responsible for reviewing this annex and compiling new/updated information on an annual basis, commencing one (1) year from the approval date of this document, or more often as necessary.

B. The OEM Director is responsible for printing and distributing changes to this annex.

VIII. AUTHENTICATION

Date

OEM Director