

Emergency Support Function – 17 Damage Assessment



2025

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RECORD OF CHANGES

Each update or change to the plan should be tracked. The record of changes, usually in table format, contains, at a minimum, a change number, the date of the change, the name of the person who made the change, and a summary of the change. Other relevant information could be considered.

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
1	01/09/25	Updated for 2025	01/09/25	Mathews

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Agency	Name, Title	Date of Delivery	Copies

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ESF – 17 Damage Assessment

ESF COORDINATOR:

Chatham County Board of Assessors
Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services
Chatham County Occupational Safety & Risk Management
Chatham Emergency Management Agency

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Chatham County Department of Engineering
Chatham County Facilities Maintenance & Operations
Chatham County Fleet Operations
Chatham County Information & Communication Systems
Chatham County Parks & Recreation
Chatham County Public Works
Chatham Emergency Services
Municipalities

INTRODUCTION

The emergency support function of damage assessment involves direction and coordination, operations, and follow-through during an emergency or disaster.

Purpose

ESF-17 Damage Assessment Annex supports the EOP and complies with standards set forth in the National Response Framework. This document provides guidance for damage assessment in the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation phases. This however is not a tactical response document. ESF-17 Damage Assessment is designed to ensure timely and seamless integration of damage assessment resources following an emergency or disaster affecting Chatham County.

Damage assessment provides the basis for the Governor to proclaim an emergency or disaster and/or request Federal assistance. The damage assessment program is essential in a disaster situation to evaluate the cost of damages and/or loss to infrastructure, property and equipment. Information collected from damage assessments is used to request a disaster declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) and/or Public Assistance (PA).

Scope

ESF-17 conducts damage assessments necessary to develop a common operating picture. These operations are critical in determining what support may be needed following an emergency or disaster, as well as determining disaster declaration eligibility.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-17 may be activated to support operations and assist with the development of a common operating picture. The scope, scale and magnitude of the threat/incident will dictate which support agencies will be requested for the support of ESF-17 Damage Assessment in the EOC.

Preparedness

- a. Identify priority areas to conduct damage assessments.
- b. Establish pre-identified damage assessment teams.
- c. Ensure publicly owned infrastructure and equipment is properly insured.
- d. Participate in exercises and training.
- e. Estimate logistical requirements (personnel, supplies, equipment, facilities, and communications) during the planning process and through exercises.
- f. Ensure all ESF-17 personnel integrate NIMS principles.

Response

- a. In conjunction with ESF-5, determine the need to deploy damage assessment teams.
- b. Collect damage assessment information, determine net losses for public assistance category expenses. Submit information to ESF-5.
- c. Direct damage assessment teams to priority areas.
- d. Coordinate with ESF-6 to determine areas that may need additional mass care support (shelter, feeding, POD's etc.)
- e. Coordinate emergency information for public release through ESF-15.
- f. Prepare damage assessment reports.
- g. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in briefings, situation reports and action plans.

Recovery

- a. Provide damage assessment coordinators for Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments with State and Federal officials.
- b. Work with insurance providers to repair damages to public infrastructure, buildings and equipment.
- c. Provide net loss information for public assistance costs to appropriate jurisdictional finance entity.

Mitigation

- a. Encourage construction enhancements or structural retrofits that minimize damage from disasters.

Organization

The County EOC will be activated to coordinate a multijurisdictional level response.

Representatives from the applicable ESF-17 Agencies may be assigned to the EOC or alternate location, as best suited to meet incident needs and coordinate operations.

ESF Role Aligned to Core Capabilities

The following table lists the response capability that ESF-17 most directly supports, along with the related ESF-17 actions supporting the capability.

Core Capability	ESF-17 Damage Assessment
Situational Assessment	• Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response. This includes, among other things: ➤ Public Assistance Damage Assessment ➤ Individual Assistance Damage Assessment

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services	• Prioritize damage assessment areas • Coordinate IA damage assessments • Prepare damage assessment reports • Provide EOC Staffing for the following EOC position as needed: ➤ Damage Assessment

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Chatham County Occupational Safety & Risk Management	• Prioritize PA damage assessment areas • Coordinate PA damage assessments • Prepare damage assessment reports • Develop & maintain insurance information • Submit net loss information to Chatham County Finance
Chatham Emergency Management Agency	• Determine the need to activate damage assessment teams • Collect damage assessment information from municipalities • Submit damage assessment information to GEMA • Coordinate with other ESF's to provide necessary support to impacted areas • Coordinate ESF meetings

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies	• Immediately following an emergency or disaster conduct IA or PA damage assessments • Provide necessary staffing to complete assessments • Attend ESF meetings to ensure planning and coordination functions are carried out to support this ESF • Provide additional resources as available to support ESF-17 response and recovery efforts • Develop appropriate plans, policies, procedures, mutual aid agreements, and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of responsibilities to this ESF • Participate in drills, exercises, and other preparedness events to measure the Agency's readiness to support this ESF • Prepare to support the Emergency Operations Center as needed • Document disaster related activities related to this ESF • Prepare to collect and maintain records of expenditures and document resource utilized during response and recovery operations
Chatham County Board of Assessors	• Support IA damage assessments
Chatham County Department of Engineering	• Support PA damage assessments
Chatham County Facilities Maintenance & Operations	• Support PA damage assessments

Supporting Agency	Actions
Chatham County Fleet Operations	• Provide repair/replacement estimates for damage county vehicles/equipment • Provide EOC Staffing for the following EOC position as needed: ➤ Transportation Ground Support
Chatham County Information & Communication Systems	• Support PA damage assessments • Provide EOC Staffing for the following EOC position as needed: ➤ ESF-2 IT & Communications
Chatham County Parks & Recreation	• Support PA damage assessments
Chatham County Public Works	• Support PA damage assessments
Chatham Emergency Services	• Support IA damage assessments
Municipalities	• Conduct IA damage assessments • Conduct PA damage assessments • Provide security for damage assessment teams • Report net PA losses to CEMA • Provide EOC Staffing for the following EOC position as needed: ➤ Municipal Liaison