

Emergency Management Handbook



South Dakota
Office of
Emergency
Management

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the reader with an overview of emergency management in South Dakota. It would be impractical for this handbook to include ALL written materials that can be found on the topic of emergency management. We have limited the contents of the handbook to current major issues within emergency management. As a user of the handbook, your feedback will be greatly appreciated. This will enable us to continue to provide a useful tool for the development of a comprehensive emergency management program in South Dakota.

Prepared by

Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

This publication may be found on the
South Dakota OEM website at
www.oem.sd.gov

Table of Contents

Local Emergency Management Organization	1
County Emergency Manager	2
Emergency Management Performance Grant & State and Local Agreement	4
SDOEM Programs	
Preparedness	
Training	5
Exercise	8
Hazardous Materials.....	9
Office of Homeland Security	10
Planning	12
Public Information	13
Response	
Local Jurisdiction	14
Field Office - Regional Coordinators	15
Duty Officer Program.....	16
The Incident Command System and the Emergency Operations Center	18
State Emergency Operations Center	18
Recovery	
Individuals and Households Program.....	19
Public Assistance	19
Mitigation	
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	20
Pre-Disaster Mitigation	21
National Flood Insurance Program.....	22

Local Emergency Management Organization

In South Dakota, all organized counties are required to have an “emergency management” organization and develop an emergency plan that is in accordance with the state emergency management plan and program (SDCL §33-15-26 and §33-15-27). As part of this organization, each county is required to have a county emergency manager (CEM) who is appointed by the executive officer or governing board. All 66 counties in South Dakota have, as a minimum, a CEM appointed to perform the duties associated with emergency management.

The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (SDOEM) is charged with the overall mission of protecting South Dakota’s citizens and their property from the effects of natural, manmade, and technological disasters. To fulfill this mission, the SDOEM recognizes and utilizes the four phases of emergency management:

- **PREPAREDNESS:** Actions taken in advance of an emergency/disaster to develop operational capabilities and facilitate response operations. Such measures may include the development of plans, procedures, warning and communications systems, mutual aid agreements, and emergency public information.
- **RESPONSE:** Actions taken during or after an emergency/disaster to save lives, minimize damages, and enhance recovery operations. These measures include activation of emergency operation centers, plans, emergency communications system, public warning, mass care, shelter, search and rescue, and security measures.
- **RECOVERY:** Actions taken over the short or long term to return vital life support systems to minimum standards or to return life to normal or improved levels. Such measures include damage assessment, supplemental assistance, economic impact studies, and mitigation of damages sustained.
- **MITIGATION:** Actions that can be taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long term risk. Such measures include building codes, public education, hazard vulnerability analysis, and zoning laws and resolutions.

In all phases, SDOEM works with its federal, state, local, and tribal partners to ensure a comprehensive emergency management system.

County Emergency Manager (CEM)

The CEM shall have direct responsibility for the development and implementation of emergency and disaster plans, organization, administration, and operation of the local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of the executive officer or governing body (SDCL §§ 33-15-27).

Examples of Work (illustrative only)

- Develops, organizes, and conducts emergency and disaster preparedness training programs to ensure those officials within the county, elected or appointed, and emergency management volunteers are adequately prepared to respond to emergency situations.
- Ensures that the county emergency operations plan is consistent with local, state, and federal government policies.
- Acts as the principal advisor to the jurisdiction's elected and appointed officials during an emergency or disaster operation.
- Assures that the public is made aware of county emergency management programs and activities.
- Assures that administration of the county emergency management office is in compliance with the Emergency Management Administrative Plan.
- Directs and coordinates for, and on behalf of the chief executive, the use of all public and private resources available to local government – manpower, supplies, skills, equipment, etc. – to provide the capability of dealing with the effects of natural or manmade disasters.
- Performs other technical or administrative duties related to the emergency management program, as directed by the executive officer or governing body.

- Acts for and on behalf of the board of county commissioners to plan and coordinate the activities of those operating departments and agencies of local government (e.g., fire, police, welfare, public works, health, etc.) which are responsible for carrying out emergency management operations in a disaster.
- Prepares and/or assists in the preparation of budgets for the county emergency management program. Prepares and submits justifications for funds used in the procurement of facilities, materials, services, and equipment (e.g., construction of emergency operations center facilities, purchases of additional communications equipment, and office supplies, etc.).
- Prepares and maintains, as required, reports and records on the emergency management activities of local government, including those required in accordance with the State and Local Agreement (SLA).

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and State and Local Agreement (SLA)

EMPG is a funding source provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness to states for the development and maintenance of emergency management programs. The state, in turn, makes a large portion of this funding available to local emergency management organizations through the SLA.

Under the SLA, the state and local emergency management organizations are required to demonstrate performance benchmarks that are both specific and measurable in order to receive federal funding. The performance benchmarks are reviewed annually to coincide with national priorities. Quarterly reports and billings document each jurisdiction's progress and allows for reimbursement for eligible expenses, including salaries.

On a day-to-day basis, the regional coordinators provide direction and technical advice about all aspects of emergency program management to CEMs. For further information on regional coordinators, please see page 15.

All reporting requirements and forms to participate in SLA can be found in the SLA procedures manual on the SDOEM secure website at <http://www.state.sd.us/applications/mv94upload/>. A username and password is required to have access to the website.

Additional Information

For more information, please contact:

EMPG/SLA Coordinator
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

SDOEM Programs

Preparedness

Training

At the state level, EMPG funds are used for training and technical assistance in a balanced instructional program to cover all phases of comprehensive emergency management. This training is delivered to a diversified emergency management audience: full-time and part-time emergency managers, fire fighters, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, administrative support staff, volunteer agencies, other state agencies, local and state government, and the general public. It teaches its audience how to effectively carry out their jobs as emergency managers and responders in natural and man made disasters that could disrupt the lives of South Dakota citizen's through loss of life and/or property.

SDOEM employs a state training officer (STO) who is responsible for the administration and curriculum portions of the program: reviewing and selecting courses, contracting instructors, selecting training sites, budgeting and approving course expenses, completing all FEMA reports and sending them to the regional office.

Training Requirements

Because of the complex nature of the duties and responsibilities of the CEM and responder, training is a vital element to ensure awareness of programmatic and procedural changes.

FEMA's Independent Study Program consists of 55 self-paced courses. Individual and group enrollments are available for most courses. Individual enrollment inquiries should be submitted by phone to the STO at 605.773.3231. For counties participating in State and Local Agreement (SLA), it is required that the CEM enrolls in, and satisfactorily completes, the following independent study courses which are offered on line by FEMA at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>.

- 1) A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance (IS-7) - the CEM shall complete this independent study course within the first 18 months of employment.
- 2) An Introduction to Hazardous Materials (IS-5.A) - the CEM shall complete this independent study course in the first two years of employment.

FEMA Professional Development Series (PDS) courses are now taken online. In order for an individual to receive the PDS certificate, all courses must be taken on line. However, to fully comprehend the material, some courses are offered in a classroom such as Exercise Design and Effective Communication. The classroom course cannot be used for credit towards the PDS certificate. The following courses are required for CEMs whose counties participate in SLA. These courses must be completed within three years of the date of employment. A more detailed description of these classes can be viewed at: <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/PDS/>.

- IS-139 - Exercise Design Course/ Exercise Evaluation Course
- IS-235 - Emergency Planning Course
- IS-230 - Principles of Emergency Management (formerly Introduction to Emergency Management)

Other PDS courses required to receive the PDS completion certificate include:

- IS-240 - Leadership and Influence
- IS-241 - Decision Making and Problem Solving
- IS-242 - Effective Communication
- IS-244 - Developing Volunteer Resources

Another aspect of training is the Incident Command System. This multi-level program provides all CEMs and responders the tools needed to manage any type of disaster. The program is based on four levels: ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300, and ICS 400. Each level is more advanced than the previous and will be taken as the responsibility of the individual increases. Two additional courses are also required by CEMs, The National Incident Management System IS-700 and the

National Response Plan IS-800. All SLA county emergency managers are required to complete ICS 100, ICS 200, IS-700 and IS-800 within the timeframe specified in the SLA.

Training Calendar

An annual SDOEM emergency management activities calendar is available on the internet. This calendar lists all of the training courses that SDOEM plans to offer in the coming year. The calendar, course descriptions, dates, locations, and a registration form are available on the SDOEM Training website under www.oem.sd.gov.

Registrations for training are usually accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, however, emergency management personnel always have priority enrollment. Private industry, volunteer groups, and other government agencies are accepted if there is space available.

Training Cost

There is no cost to attend FEMA-funded training courses. SDOEM will pay lodging and per diem for one CEM (SLA and non-SLA) enrolled in any of each of the three required PDS courses. For all other EMPG-funded training courses, SDOEM will pay lodging and per diem for SLA counties only. Mileage will not be reimbursed.

Emergency Management Institute

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI), is located at Emmitsburg, Maryland, and shares its campus with the National Fire Academy. EMI hosts national courses year round that have limited enrollment. Additional information about EMI is located at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/>.

A FEMA Form 75-5 application needs to be submitted to the STO to enroll in an EMI course.

Additional Information

For more information about emergency management and homeland security training in South Dakota, please contact:

State Training Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Exercise

A fundamental responsibility of an emergency manager is to establish a program which will effectively provide for the protection of the lives and property of the public. This goal is attained through a variety of means, including on-going training programs and the regular exercising of emergency operations plans and procedures.

It is often said that conducting exercises is the “second best” way to evaluate emergency plans. Experience has shown that the ability to conduct effective emergency operations is enhanced by the testing of emergency functions through the use of exercises based on simulated, but realistic, emergencies. Perhaps the “best way” to evaluate plans is during an actual disaster; however, it is seldom possible to make adjustments in plans while reacting to an actual emergency. Exercises, however, can result in such adjustments being made, through effective follow-up action, prior to an emergency need.

Elements of an Exercise Program

On an annual basis the program should follow a cycle of:

- 1) Planning/development
- 2) Training/preparation
- 3) Exercises
- 4) Corrective Actions/improvement

A comprehensive exercise program contains exercise activities completed in a cyclical manner allowing for progressive preparedness by increasing size complexity and stress factor over time, while allowing for significant learning opportunities that complement, build upon, and directly lead into one another effectively. The following exercise types demonstrate this progression. There are several types and levels of exercising; the following three are the most commonly used exercises:

Table-Top Exercises: An activity in which elected/appointed officials and key emergency management staff are gathered together informally, to train and familiarize personnel and agencies with roles and responsibilities within the emergency operation plan, using a series of simulated emergency situations or messages. A tabletop exercise should be conducted in a non-threatening environment and under minimal stress for the participants.

Functional Exercises: Usually centered in the local emergency operations center, the functional exercise is designed to test and evaluate the capability of a jurisdiction to respond to a simulated emergency. Through a detailed narrative and messages, a functional exercise is conducted in a "real-time" environment and causes participants to make decisions and take actions utilizing several functions of the jurisdiction's emergency operation plan.

Full-Scale Exercises: The full-scale exercise includes all the components of the functional exercise and adds the actual responding field units. It is intended to test and evaluate all or most functions listed in the emergency operation plan as realistically as possible in order to respond to a hazard/emergency.

Counties participating in SLA are required to conduct an exercise each year. At the conclusion of the exercise an After Action Report needs to be completed and submitted to SDOEM. The FEMA Form 95-44 can be utilized for this purpose, or the After Action Report can be completed pursuant to the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Additional Information

For more information about exercises in South Dakota, please contact:

SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction and guidance to enhance state and

local hazardous materials emergency planning and training. The HMEP grant originates with the United States Department of Transportation. The grant program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for hazmat training and to local emergency planning committees (LEPC's) for hazmat planning.

The HMEP planning portion of the grant is available to state governments and LEPC's for hazardous materials emergency response planning and exercising. The grant pays for projects such as commodity flow studies, writing and printing emergency response plans, and hazards analyses.

HMEP training funds are available to state and/or local public sector employees or volunteers involved in hazardous materials emergency response for training to the OSHA and NFPA defined awareness, operations, technician, specialist, and above, levels.

Additional Information

For more information about the hazardous materials program in South Dakota, please contact:

Hazardous Materials Coordinator
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.6424

Office of Homeland Security

One of the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security's chief responsibilities is for the allocation of grants. In coordination with SDOEM and the Department of Justice Office for Domestic Preparedness, the Office of Homeland Security acquires and distributes the funding necessary to support the local entities with planning, training, exercise, organizational, and equipment needs.

Homeland security grants are received by the state according to the year it is applied for and awarded in. The time that the awarded funds may be used is determined by the length of time that the federal government has predetermined. After the homeland security funds have been secured for South Dakota, the grant is portioned according to the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act holds

20% of the funds for the state and the remaining 80% is given to the counties. 80% of the homeland security funds are then disbursed to the county and tribal governments based on a set percentage with the remaining balance disbursed by citizen population of that county or tribal government.

After money amounts have been determined for every county and tribe, the emergency managers and the local decision makers collectively decide how the homeland security funds are going to be used. For every grant there is an authorized equipment list that is published by the Office for Domestic Preparedness. This list is the base that county and tribal governments must work from when deciding what to purchase with the grant money. After a list is approved by the local governments, the state government must approve it as well before an order is placed with private vendors. After the equipment has been received, the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security processes the invoices for the counties or tribes to be reimbursed.

The South Dakota Office of Homeland Security has developed the following steps for local jurisdictions to apply for and receive the homeland security grant money:

- 1) Local jurisdictions must establish a committee of local decision makers. These decision makers have the responsibility for the protection of people and critical assets in their community. Examples of individuals who should be on this committee would be representatives from the city and county commissions, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management, emergency medical services, public works, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, chemical storage facilities, bulk fuel storage facilities, gas pipelines, electrical services, rural water systems and communication systems.
- 2) Local jurisdictions must utilize the authorized equipment list when determining equipment needs.
- 3) Based on local jurisdictions' priorities, decision makers must return the following to the South Dakota Office of Homeland Security by assigned deadlines: equipment list selections (Budget Detail Worksheets), a signed reimbursement agreement, and a committee meeting roster.
- 4) South Dakota Homeland Security will review the Budget Detail Worksheets for eligibility purposes and send an approval letter.
- 5) Local jurisdictions begin purchasing the approved equipment.
- 6) Local jurisdiction must submit invoices for reimbursement.

- 7) South Dakota Office of Homeland Security processes payments to locals at least two times per month.

Additional Information

For more information about the Homeland Security program in South Dakota, please contact:

SD Office of Homeland Security
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3450

Planning

The Planning Section is responsible preparing and maintaining the South Dakota Emergency Operations Plan. The Planning Section also provides support to various state agencies in their planning efforts.

The primary purpose of the South Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan is to assist state government agencies in responding to an emergency/disaster when it exceeds local government's capability to respond. Emergency/disaster conditions may require state agency personnel to perform their normal scope of work under unusual circumstances. Normal functions that do not contribute to the emergency operation may be suspended or redirected for the duration of the emergency. It is the responsibility of each state agency to respond in a manner consistent with its capabilities as identified and agreed to in this plan.

The South Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan establishes policy for state government agencies in their response to the threat of natural, technological, or national security emergency/disaster situations. It documents the policies, concept of operations, organizational structures and specific responsibilities of state agencies in their response to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens. It addresses the need for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities to enhance the state's overall capability to cope with potential hazards.

Additional Information

For more information about planning, please contact:

State Planner
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Public Information

Awareness Campaign

SDOEM sponsors (in conjunction with other agencies) awareness campaigns that focus on hazards that pose a significant threat to the health, environment, and economic well-being of communities and families. The two primary campaigns are Winter Weather Preparedness, conducted in October, and Severe Weather Preparedness, conducted in April.

The purpose of the two awareness campaigns is to increase public awareness of seasonal hazards and to promote proactive steps designed to reduce or mitigate these hazards.

Awareness weeks are an excellent opportunity to hold a community exercise that can involve a facility, first responders, hospitals, schools, etc. You can also build in a public education component to exercises done during the specific week for heightened media awareness. The sky's the limit!

Additional Information

For more information about awareness campaigns, please contact:

Public Information Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Response

Local Jurisdiction

The initial response to an emergency or disaster situation is made by the local jurisdiction. The situation may necessitate the enactment of a local emergency or disaster declaration. It is the responsibility of the affected government entity to take any actions necessary to reduce injury and loss of life and property. If the situation is beyond their resource capability, supplemental assistance shall be requested from the county. In the event a crisis exceeds the capability of the county and local government and mutual aid resources, the Governor, as requested and provided by law, may declare a state of emergency or disaster to exist.

Requests for State of South Dakota assistance and support from townships, towns, tribal agencies, or counties shall be channeled through the CEM to SDOEM. This includes requests for assessments, equipment, personnel, supplies, technical assistance, and military support. If outside assistance is made available, local governments must be prepared to fund part or all of the cost of response and recovery.

SDCL 33-15-24.1. Minimum local effort required for state aid. In order to qualify for state financial assistance to meet the costs of an emergency or disaster declared by the Governor, a county shall meet the minimum standard of local effort as specified in subdivision 33-15-1 (7).

SDCL 33-15-1. Definitions

(7) "Local effort," the expenditure for emergency or disaster purposes within the twelve-month period preceding the date of the request, of an amount equal to two mills of the assessed valuation, exclusive of capital asset purchases, in each county for the assessment date preceding the date of the request under an emergency or disaster declaration by the Governor.

**Office of Emergency Management
Field Office - Regional Coordinators**

SDOEM has four (4) regional coordinators, one each located in Aberdeen, Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. The regional coordinators are available to support a response as the SDOEM agency representative to an emergency or disaster incident within their assigned region or statewide, as required. At the scene, they can assist the CEM or the Incident Commander with situation assessments, coordination of resource requests, or program related technical assistance. During an "initial attack," the regional coordinators are valuable assets that can often assist with many functions. The regional coordinators are available to assist with recovery efforts.

Additional Information**Aberdeen Field Office**

(Beadle, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, Sanborn, and Spink Counties)

PO Box 633

Aberdeen, SD 57402-0633

Phone: 605.626.2236

Fax: 605.626.2562

Pierre Field Office

(Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Charles Mix, Corson, Dewey, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jones, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Walworth, and Ziebach Counties)

118 West Capitol

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605.773.6425

Fax: 605.773.3580

Rapid City Field Office

(Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Gregory, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Mellette, Pennington, Perkins, Shannon, Todd, and Tripp Counties)

4250 Fire Station Rd, Suite 2

Rapid City, SD 57703

Phone: 605.393.8051

Fax: 605.393.8052

Sioux Falls Field Office

(Aurora, Bon Homme, Brookings, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Turner, Union, and Yankton Counties)

PO Box 84238

Sioux Falls, SD 57118-0238

Phone: 605.367.5240

Fax: 605.367.5241

Duty Officer Program

The purpose of the 24-hour South Dakota Duty Officer Program is to provide a single point of contact to government entities to call when **state-level assistance** is needed or when a **state-level notification** is required.

The scope of the Duty Officer Program includes, but is not limited to, actual or impending incidents such as the following:

- Hazard materials incidents (including fuel spills)
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosion event (terrorism)
- Aircraft accidents/incidents
- Search and rescue assistance (missing persons)
- Law Enforcement incidents (i.e. bomb threats, hostages, civil disturbances)

- Natural disasters (tornado, flood, fire, etc.)
- Any incident where assistance is needed from one or more state agencies, or, when the state agency has a reporting requirement (i.e. South Dakota National Guard or Department of Environment and Natural Resources.)

When the Duty Officer receives a call of an incident, he or she will make notifications to appropriate state agency personnel with the expertise and/or resources to assist the caller.

The telephone number to contact the Duty Officer is 605.773.3231. This number should be used at all times. If the incident occurs after normal work hours, Pierre State Radio will answer the call. The Duty Officer will then be contacted and will return your call immediately.

Be ready to provide the following information when contacted by the Duty Officer:

All calls will require:

- Name of incident commander
- Telephone number for call-backs at the scene or command post
- Have local officials been notified of incident - i.e. fire, police, sheriff

When making notifications of spills/incidents:

- Date, time and location of the incident
- Does the event threaten or endanger people or property
- Materials and quantity involved in incident (for hazmat spills)
- Responsible party of incident (for hazmat spills)
- Telephone number of responsible party (for hazmat spills)
- Any surface waters or sewers impacted
- What has happened or what is happening
- What is the plan to handle the situation
- What response agencies are on scene or have been requested

There may be other information that will be requested and needs to be provided based upon the incident occurring.

When requesting state assistance for incidents:

- What kind of assistance is requested
- Name of the requesting agency/facility
- Materials and quantity involved in the incident

- Resource types and quantity requested
- Have all local, county, and mutual aid resources been utilized and expended

If outside assistance is made available, local governments must be prepared to fund part or all of the cost of response and recovery.

The Incident Command System and the Emergency Operations Center

Most incidents are classified as minor. They affect only a small portion of the community and most response organizations have the capabilities to manage the incident by committing only limited resources.

Major incidents, however, may threaten the entire community. A much greater commitment of equipment and personnel is made during large scale incidents in an attempt to control these incidents. Coordination of the response, responders, and information management, moves to the highest decision and policy making level.

A thorough understanding of both an effective Incident Command System (ICS) and the concept of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is fundamental to the effective management of both large and small incidents. All participants must understand the functions of each system and his or her specific role under each to manage the incident. ICS training is available for elected officials through several resources, including SDOEM. Training may even be available online.

The roles and responsibilities of the on-scene incident commander and the emergency operations center must be defined in local emergency operations plans and understood by everybody before the incident occurs.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

Activation

The SEOC is a designated facility at which SDOEM staff and state agency representatives may gather to coordinate and allocate state resources in response to a request from a local jurisdiction or another state agency.

Upon receiving notification or alert of an event (depending on severity), the SDOEM Duty Officer will notify the SDOEM management team. The management team will determine if the Governor should be notified, and if and to what level, the SEOC should be activated.

Recovery

After the initial response to a situation, the regional coordinators may assist with the recovery process. Recovery responsibilities include ensuring human needs are met and providing expertise for the restoration of public infrastructure.

Individuals and Households Program

Depending on the severity of the event, a Presidential disaster declaration may result in Individual Assistance (IA) from FEMA. While Public Assistance funding is used to repair and restore publicly-owned infrastructure following a declared disaster, IA is targeted specifically at people. Low interest loans, unemployment assistance, housing assistance, and crisis counseling are some of the benefits disaster victims can receive from IA. Among other factors, the number of homes destroyed or sustaining major damage is considered.

Additional Information

For more information about the Individual and Households Program in South Dakota, please contact:

Individual Assistance Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Public Assistance (PA)

A Presidential disaster declaration is the beginning of the PA program. A Presidential disaster could be the result of any natural disaster, including floods, tornadoes, winter storms, and wildfires. Once a Presidential disaster is declared, the PA program is initiated. FEMA grants money to the State of South Dakota to help rebuild

public related and certain private non-profit infrastructure and facilities to pre-disaster condition. In return, SDOEM manages this money and grants it to the eligible applicants. SDOEM works directly with the applicants to ensure eligibility. Once eligible applicants are determined, SDOEM ensures proper documentation is archived for audit purposes. Among other factors, countywide and statewide per capita financial impacts are considered for a PA declaration.

Additional Information

For more information about Public Assistance in South Dakota, please contact:

Public Assistance Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Mitigation

Mitigation is defined as lessening or eliminating the effects of natural disasters on people and property. Mitigation projects can go a long way in preventing loss of life and property damage.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Following a Presidential disaster declaration, the state receives funding for mitigation projects on both the state-level and local-level. State governments, local governments, tribal governments, and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for HMGP funds. Eligible projects include acquisition, burying overhead powerlines, drainage projects, and fire breaks. In order for a project to be approved to receive HMGP funding, it must have a 1:1 benefit cost ratio and must go through an environmental review process. Up to 75% of the eligible project cost can be paid with HMGP funds; the remaining cost must be covered by the applicant.

Additional Information

For more information about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in South Dakota, please contact:

Hazard Mitigation Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

FEMA's PDM program was implemented to give states and local governments funding and technical assistance to:

- meet the state and local mitigation planning requirements outlined in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and
- to complete cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that reduce injuries, loss of life, and property damage resulting from natural disasters.

Unlike the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is available only after a Presidential disaster declaration, PDM funding is available on a yearly basis. This limited funding is available for application by county and tribal governments to complete a local hazard mitigation plan. Once all counties in South Dakota have an approved local mitigation plan, PDM funding will be available to fund mitigation projects, such as acquisitions or drainage projects.

Additional Information

For more information about Pre-Disaster Mitigation in South Dakota, please contact:

Hazard Mitigation Officer
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Flood insurance purchased through NFIP has eased the burden of personal loss by flooding to South Dakota individuals since 1978. The NFIP is a self-supporting program which means operating expenses and flood insurance claims are not paid by the taxpayer but through premiums collected for flood insurance policies.

Individuals are able to purchase flood insurance from local insurance agents, as long as the community in which they live, or county if a rural residence, participates in the NFIP. To participate in NFIP, a community must submit an application to the state NFIP Coordinator. Once reviewed, they are sent to FEMA for approval. Applications must include adopted resolutions and ordinances to regulate new construction and special flood hazard areas (SFHA). SFHA are at risk for flooding and are determined by a flood study. The community is then given six months to adopt base flood elevations in its local zoning and building ordinances and to meet other requirements.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

FEMA's FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under NFIP.

FEMA encourages communities to identify ways to reduce their risk of flood damage by preparing flood mitigation plans. Plans must assess flood risk and identify actions to reduce that risk. A project must be physically located in a participating NFIP community or must reduce future flood damages in an NFIP community.

Map Modernization (MapMOD)

FEMA's overall vision is to create "A Nation Prepared." To support this vision, FEMA has embarked on an aggressive 5-year initiative to update the nation's flood hazard maps. Infused with funds provided by the President and Congress, FEMA is transforming the way flood maps are created and accessed. The vision for Map Modernization entails providing flood maps and data for communities nationwide that are more accurate, easier-to-use, and readily available.

Additional Information

For more information about National Flood Insurance or Flood Mitigation Assistance in South Dakota, please contact:

NFIP Coordinator
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3231