
Annex N
SEF 14
Damage Assessment

LEAD AGENCY: Colorado Office of Emergency Management

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: General Support Services, Agriculture, Public Health & Environment, Higher Education, Local Affairs, Military Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Safety, Regulatory Agencies, Transportation, Education, American Red Cross, Colorado Chapter of the International Conference of Building Officials.

- I. PURPOSE: The damage assessment process allows the local, state and federal governments to develop a picture of the overall impact of the incident. Ineffective or incomplete damage assessment may delay and complicate the response and recovery process.
- II. SCOPE: Colorado's Damage Assessment system has been developed following the FEMA required procedures and forms. Additional guidance and information can be found in the Recovery Plan.
- III. SITUATION: This annex may be implemented any time a disaster has occurred that is likely to overwhelm the local government/s ability to respond to and recover from the incident. The Governor or the Director of COEM may direct that this Annex be implemented with or without a state declaration of disaster or emergency.
- IV. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS
 1. It may be assumed that damage assessment could be required in any area of the state and could include several jurisdictions.
 2. Joint local, state and federal teams will be activated in the preliminary (third) assessment stage.
 3. State members of the teams may expect to be deployed for several days at a time in varying levels of working conditions. (long hours, less than basic living conditions)
- V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

There are four phases of the system; windshield, initial, preliminary, and detailed. Local governments are primarily responsible for the windshield and initial phases. This should give them an accurate idea of the situation and whether or not state and/or federal assistance may be required. In the preliminary phase, joint local, state and federal teams survey the areas in order to determine if a Presidential declaration of disaster should be requested or if the state is able to deal with the situation. The detailed phase only occurs after a Presidential declaration. At that time Damage Survey Reports (DSR's) are produced by the local, state, and federal teams. DSR's become actually "work orders" for the repair/replacement projects.

The process is described in the Colorado Damage Assessment Handbook, 1992. (Often referred to as "the yellow book".)

VI. ORGANIZATION and RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Local Affairs/OEM will be the lead state agency for damage assessment.

B. Supporting Departments and Agencies for damage assessment are:
General Support Services, Agriculture, Public Health & Environment, Higher Education,
Military Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Safety, Regulatory Agencies, Revenue,
Transportation, Education, American Red Cross, Colorado Chapter of the International
Conference of Building Officials.