



FEMA



Translator



When FEMA says this...	...it means this:
Recipient	State, Territorial, or Tribal government that receives and manages the federal award under the disaster declaration and disburses funding to eligible Subrecipients
Subrecipient	Applicant (you)
SLTT	State, local, tribal, territorial
PDMG	Program Delivery Manager – this is your main FEMA contact assigned for each disaster
TFL	Task Force Lead – this is the supervisor for the PDMGs
PAGS	PA Group Supervisor – FEMA team lead for the disaster; they often are managing more than one disaster in the region at a time.
PA	Public Assistance – this is the program by which disaster recovery funds are administered and delivered to our communities
PAPPG (“The Papa-G”)	Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide – this is FEMA’s official policy
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment – often completed with FEMA representatives prior to a disaster declaration to validate the costs for damages required to request the declaration.
Threshold	The fiscal figure required at each level of the PA process. There is a threshold for each county and the state to be qualified for and request a Disaster Declaration; there is a threshold for each project in each damage category (A-G) in order for a project to be eligible for reimbursement through PA. If your expenses within a category falls below the minimum threshold, the costs cannot be reimbursed.
EC	Exploratory Call – the first call where you “meet” your assigned PDMG and set up your RSM
RSM	Recovery Scoping Meeting – the meeting to review your damages in depth so projects can be created
RTM	Recovery Transition Meeting - This is where FEMA turns over the project and process to the State; usually means the projects have been obligated and work is progressing according to plan
RFI	Request for information – formal questions from FEMA that can delay projects; usually your PDMG will relay these informally to attempt to a gather the information to avoid RFIs

When FEMA says this...	...it means this:
DI	Damage Inventory – spreadsheet with detailed information about damages incurred from a specific disaster
SI	Site inspection – a specialized FEMA team will visit (or do a desk-top) analysis of your damages at locations that still need work to be completed to evaluate extent of damage, mitigation opportunities and EHP concerns.
Projects	Groupings of damages (with documentation and dollar amounts) submitted via Grants Portal under various categories to seek reimbursement. Each project must be above the minimum threshold amount.
Facilities	This means any structure or asset that sustained damage during the declared disaster. Includes roads, bridges, etc.
Do you have insurance for that?	FEMA will need a copy of any insurance policy(ies) that were in place during the incident period, i.e., property, vehicle, flood. They have a team of insurance experts that will confirm if the insurance covers any of the damages.
Is this your legal responsibility to fix or maintain?	Are the damages within your jurisdictional responsibilities and not federal, state, or private property
Do you have a Mitigation Proposal?	This is a proposal specific to the damages from the storm- not your town or county overall Hazard Mitigation Plan. A proposal may contain the desire to upsize culverts or add rip rap at any particular location(s).
406 Mitigation/404 Mitigation	406 is mitigation funding directly related to damages caused by the declared disaster; 404 is a competitive program run by the state and you have to have a hazard mitigation plan (and be in a county with an approved Hazard Mitigation plan).
FEMA-Approved Debris Plan	This is an older document some towns may have; it is not necessary. Debris should be disposed of in environmentally sound manner (e.g., at approved/licensed facilities).
Cord (when referring to Debris volume)	Yes – we measure everything compared to firewood amounts. One cord equals 128 cubic feet.
Percent complete – temporary and permanent work	For all categories of work (A-G) percent complete is how much is done to return the location or facility, road, etc., back to its pre-storm condition. You may be done with temp repairs to get the road passable, but still need to re-pave. Similarly with Debris removal – if it's at a staging location, but not fully to its final resting place. Estimate a percentage of work complete.
Obligated/Obligation	When a project(s) has been reviewed and approved for FEMA funding.
Culverts	Any material/structure that allows for the passage of water under or along a roadway or similar structure
Cross Drain	System that diverts water from a gateway, a track, or farmyard to an area where it will not cause new erosion or runoff issues.
Intermittent or seasonal streams	Those streams that flow part or most of the year; usually referenced for culverts that carry anything but road drainage and runoff (if not constant).

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Dirt Road	Usually gravel – Maine often uses dirt and gravel interchangeably. FEMA will need to know if it is really dirt or gravel to determine cost of materials for replacement and repair.
Transfer Station/Dump	The town’s municipal waste facility. Often has solid waste, compost, recycling facilities and/or some services with contractors but this is the dedicated local location for waste.
Volunteer Fire Department	Most VFD’s in Maine are referred to as volunteers but receive a per-call or stipend payment for responding to calls