

Phases of Damage Assessment

Phase of Damage Assessment	Purpose/ Level of Assessment	Timeframe	Who Conducts the Assessment?	What is Covered?
Initial Damage Assessment	Quick "back of the envelope" assessment	Immediately after disaster; 12-24 hours after disaster	Technical and non-technical utility staff with local government officials Forwarded to state government	Public and private utilities focusing on % outages, % population not served, number of facilities or pump stations damaged or non-operational, access to facilities, boil water orders, mutual aid requested, status of repair crews
Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)	Justifies Presidential declaration and release of federal disaster funds	2-4 days after disaster	Team of state and federal officials Could include utility engineers during visit	Utility may verify impacts, provide photo logs, and show damage Immediate expenditures for emergency repairs
Detailed Damage Assessment	Helps plan for repairs; justifies disaster funds	After Presidential declaration and before permanent repairs; 1 to several weeks after disaster	Utility engineers, technical staff, emergency or permanent repair crews	Detailed damage information to justify emergency and permanent repairs and costs

This is taken from the U.S. EPA's website on Federal Funding for Utilities - Water/Wastewater - in National Disasters (Fed FUNDS).