

Preliminary Damage Assessments

Missouri Flooding – July 2010

07-26-10

- Teams of local, state and federal disaster specialists are conducting Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in several Missouri counties impacted by recent severe storms and flooding.
- Preliminary damage assessments are designed to gather general information about the disaster's impacts. They provide a big picture of the extent and scope of damage so that state officials can determine what resources are needed to help individuals, businesses and local communities recover.
- Missouri State Emergency Management Agency officials asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration to join state and local representatives in looking at damage to homes and businesses in 14 Missouri counties and the independent city of St. Louis.
- Beginning on July 12, four teams of specialists surveyed residences and businesses in Andrew, Buchanan, Cass, Daviess, Gentry, Holt, Jackson, Livingston and Schuyler counties.

Beginning July 27, two teams of specialists started additional surveys in Knox, Jackson, Monroe, Pike, St. Louis, and Shelby counties and the independent City of St. Louis.

- The surveys are general in nature and do not include a detailed examination of every affected home or business.
- Once the damage assessments are completed, state officials can use the survey information to determine whether disaster recovery is within the state's capabilities or whether federal disaster assistance may be needed.
- If the Governor deems that the disaster response or recovery requires federal assistance, he can submit a request for aid to FEMA using the damage assessments and other pertinent information.
- The request is forwarded to the White House for a decision by the President.
- In the meantime, business owners should report their damages to their insurance companies and to local emergency management officials.
- Homeowners and renters with damages also should notify their insurance companies first and then contact their local emergency officials or call 2-1-1.
- Anyone with emergency needs such as help with a place to stay, food or medicine, should call 2-1-1 for short-term assistance.