

# FTA Emergency Management



# Background

**The Stafford Act.** In 1988, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § § 5121-5206) (Stafford Act) established the authority for the federal government to respond to disasters in support of state and local governments; defined two levels of adverse events, emergency and major disaster; and provided for the Federal Disaster Relief Fund. This law establishes a process for requesting and obtaining Presidential disaster declaration, defines the type and scope of assistance available from the federal government, and sets the conditions for obtaining that assistance. FEMA, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), coordinates the response.

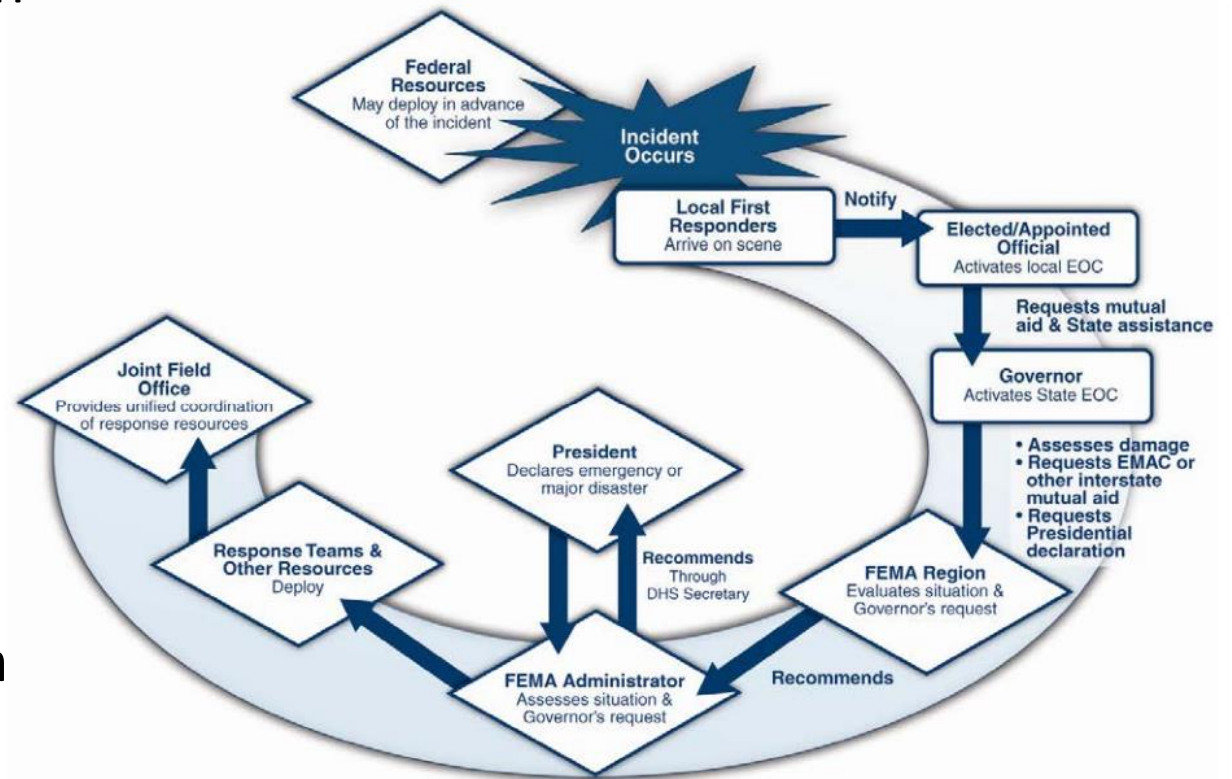
**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA.** In March 2013, DOT and FEMA signed an MOA that outlines the roles of both agencies in providing federal assistance to repair and restore public transportation systems in areas that the President declares a major emergency or disaster. Under this MOA, **FEMA continues its primary federal responsibility for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in major emergencies and disasters.** However, in the event Congress appropriates funds for FTA's Emergency Relief program, FTA has responsibility for reimbursing emergency response and recovery costs after an emergency or disaster that affects public transit and for helping to mitigate the impacts of future disasters.

# Three Phases of Emergency/Disaster (Pre, During, Post)

Pre-Emergency/Disaster: Notify FTA Region 7 of possible emergency/disaster

During Emergency/Disaster: 1) Implement local emergency management program (restore/maintain service) and 2) Provide Region 7 status on operations and assets

Post-Emergency/Disaster: Coordinate with FEMA and FTA to secure reimbursements (restoring services and rebuilding transit system)



# Resources and Contacts

FTA Emergency Management Website - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/emergency-management>

FTA Response and Recovery for Declared Emergencies and Disasters (*Resource Document for Transit Agencies*) - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/oversight-policy-areas/response-and-recovery-declared-emergencies-and-disasters>

- Contact Region 7 for guidance and assistance:  
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