

Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

Operational Draft Socialization | July 2024



FEMA

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Guide Overview
- PDA Guide Update Process
- Summary of Changes
- Questions
- Next Steps

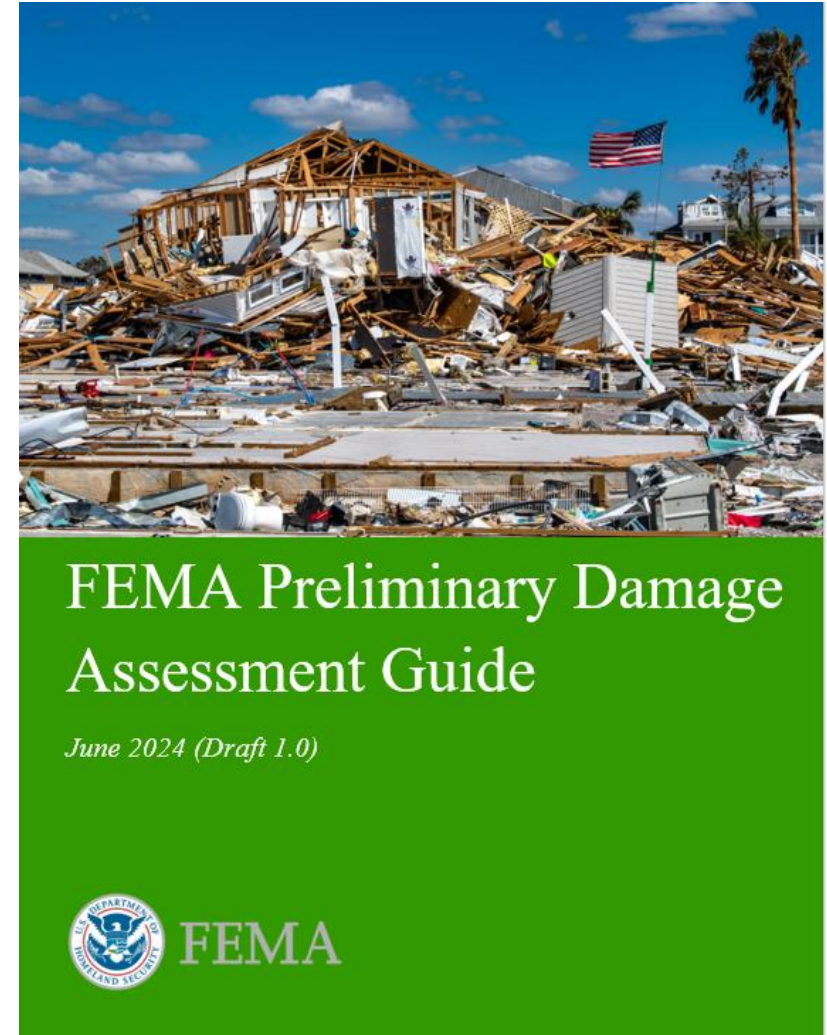


An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Newport, Rhode Island, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and a dense forest of green trees surrounding the buildings. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

PDA Guide Overview

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- The PDA Guide establishes a national, standardized framework for how state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government officials and FEMA staff collect, validate, quantify, and document the extent of damage in the aftermath of a disaster.
- It ensures disaster recovery assistance is promptly delivered to individuals and communities impacted by an event by:
 - Outlining the required information and documentation that FEMA needs to evaluate damage and facilitate requests for Stafford Act assistance;
 - Providing emergency management officials with the necessary structure, information, and resources to streamline initial damage assessments; and
 - Standardizing processes and criteria for assessing damage to residential homes and providing clear guidance on assessing damage to infrastructure.



PDA Guide Structure

- **Chapter 1: Organization:** Outlines the purpose, scope, and applicability for the PDA Guide, while providing guidance for using the guide.
- **Chapter 2: Preliminary Damage Assessment Overview:** Outlines the objectives of the PDA process, key considerations, roles and responsibilities, and the PDA process.
- **Chapter 3: Joint PDA Methodologies:** Describes damage assessment methodologies for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) joint PDAs.
- **Chapter 4: Individual Assistance Damage Assessments:** Outlines roles and responsibilities for IA joint PDAs and factors for evaluating requests for IA.
- **Chapter 5: Public Assistance Damage Assessments:** Outlines roles and responsibilities for PA joint PDAs and factors for evaluating request for PA.
- **Appendices:** In addition to the list of acronyms, the glossary, and a list of authorities, the PDA Guide includes appendices that include common forms and matrixes. It also includes an appendix that provides detailed guidance for Tribal Nations conducting a PDA.

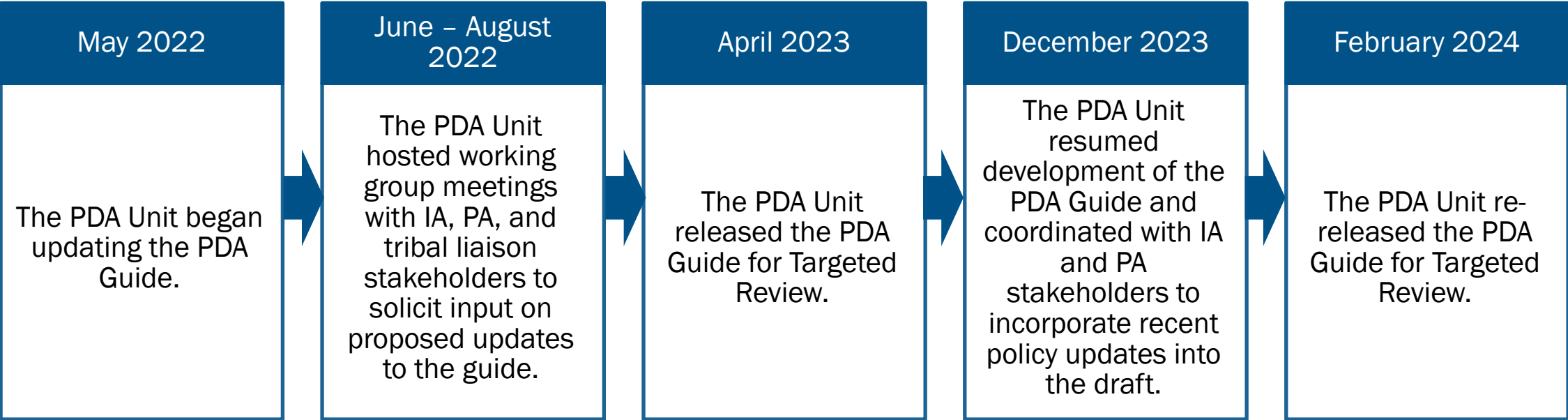


An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in New England, featuring a harbor filled with numerous sailboats and yachts. The town is built on a hillside, with a prominent white church steeple visible on the right. The surrounding area is densely forested with green trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

PDA Guide Update Process

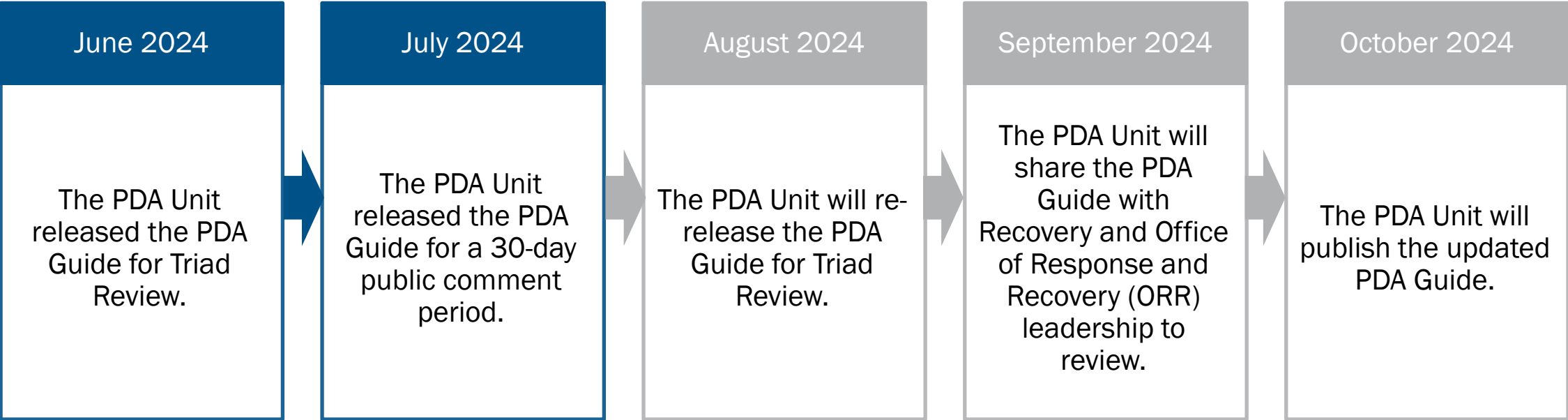
PDA Guide Update Process (1 of 2)

- FEMA’s PDA Unit routinely updates the PDA Guide to ensure that it includes the most up-to-date guidance.
- The PDA Unit began updating the guide in May 2022 by soliciting input from internal subject matter experts and addressing pre-identified revision priorities.



PDA Guide Update Process (2 of 2)

- The PDA Unit will release an operational draft for public comment and then oversee the concurrence process before publishing the updated PDA Guide.
- The PDA Unit plans to complete the PDA Guide update in October 2024.



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Summary of Changes

Key Changes in the PDA Guide (1 of 4)

During development and following Targeted Review, the PDA Unit made significant, high-level changes throughout the to the PDA Guide, including:

- Improving guidance for Tribal Nations by clarifying how Tribal Nations can participate in the joint PDA;
- Adjusting the level of detail for the descriptions of the IA and PA programs to focus on how eligibility requirements connect to the PDA process;
- Adding up-to-date tables, figures, graphics, matrices, templates, and resources to throughout the guide and to the appendices;
- Expanding Appendix D: Tribal-Specific Considerations so that it serves as stand-alone guidance for Tribal Nations; and
- Updating Appendix E: Technology to reflect current methods used to conduct damage assessments.

Key Changes in the PDA Guide (2 of 4)

The PDA Unit updated Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 in the PDA Guide by:

Chapter 2: Preliminary Damage Assessment Overview

- Consolidating the methodology for the IA and PA PDA concept of operations into a single, shared PDA process;
- Restructuring and clarifying the overview of the PDA process;
- Expanding on the importance of completing the initial damage assessment (IDA);
- Consolidating roles and responsibilities for IA and PA PDAs into a single, shared list; and
- Expanding and updating information on data collection, documentation, and verification for PDAs.

Chapter 3: Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Methodologies

- Creating a new chapter to consolidate methodologies for IA and PA PDAs;
- Adding guidance for new validation methods and technology SLTT governments can employ, including digital surveys and remote validation tools; and
- Expanding on virtual sensing methodologies and modeling tools available to support damage assessments.



Key Changes in the PDA Guide (3 of 4)

The PDA Unit updated Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 in the PDA Guide by:

Chapter 4: Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

- Updating roles and responsibilities for an IA PDA;
- Reorganizing the chapter to create a designated damage levels section by consolidating information on damage levels and descriptions for manufactured and conventional homes;
- Clarifying how the cost of assistance is assessed;
- Consolidating the guidance on assessing available resources and documenting relevant impact; and
- Providing additional guidance for writing an impact statement and its basic components to adequately document the severity, magnitude, and impact of the event.

Chapter 5: Public Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

- Updating roles and responsibilities for a PA PDA;
- Adding guidance on using the PDA System Reporting Application to automatically calculate costs and develop a Site Estimate Summary;
- Updated the list of costs not considered based on updated examples included in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide; and
- Consolidating the guidance on documenting work and costs by removing subsections that described the general methods used to accomplish disaster-related work and estimate costs.



Key Changes in the PDA Guide (4 of 4)

The PDA Unit updated IA and PA programmatic information in the PDA Guide by:



Individual Assistance Updates

- Updating the declaration factors;
- Adding information outlining how the functionality of damaged components of a home are assessed;
- Removing references to detached carports, garages, and outbuildings as a factor for eligibility;
- Updating the essential living spaces definition;
- Updating the damage level descriptions for all housing types by adding requirements for structural damage or damage to the foundation, and updating the waterline requirements for flooding incidents; and
- Removing the habitability standard for providing assistance.



Public Assistance Updates

- Updating the evaluation factors for PA requests;
- Providing additional information to describe how the Disaster Recovery Reform Act guides PA program implementation and declaration factors;
- Describing how FEMA accounts for localized impacts when the statewide per capita impact is low;
- Simplifying the guidance on evaluating the effects of recent, multiple disasters to emphasize the 12-month timeline; and
- Adding a new section on per capita impact calculations to outline the new statewide and county per capita impact calculations.



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Questions?

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Next Steps

Next Steps

- The PDA Unit released the PDA Guide draft for a 30-day public comment period on July 22, 2024.
- Following the public comment period, the PDA Unit will resume the concurrence process in August 2024.
- The PDA Unit will finalize and publish the updated PDA Guide in October 2024.

Contact Information

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