

Lesson Overview

This lesson describes the FEMA-funded activities that trigger environmental/historic preservation review.

Lesson Objectives

At the completion of this lesson, you will be able to identify the types of FEMA-funded activities that may require environmental/historic preservation review.

FEMA-Funded Activities**Key Points**

- Certain FEMA-funded activities have higher potential than others to affect the environment or historic properties.
 - These activities must be reviewed in greater detail for environmental/historic preservation compliance regardless of which FEMA program provides funding.
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FEMA-Funded Activities

Environmental/historic preservation compliance applies whether an activity is funded under recovery programs, hazard mitigation programs, or any other FEMA program. This lesson discusses FEMA-funded activities and identifies those that are most likely to trigger a review.

FEMA Activities and Environmental/Historic Preservation Review

The potential of FEMA-funded activities to affect the environment or historic properties depends on the nature and location of the activity. The most common FEMA-funded categories of activities that may affect the environment or historic properties are:

- Emergency protective measures.
- Debris removal.
- Repairs.
- Modification, mitigation, or expansion of existing structures.
- New construction and ground disturbance.

The remainder of this lesson presents information about the potential environmental or historic preservation impact of each type of activity.

Emergency Protective Measures

Emergency protective measures are funded by the Public Assistance (PA) program and may include:

- Police, fire, and rescue response.
- Health and safety measures.
- Emergency access and communications.
- Sandbagging, temporary levees, or pumping.
- Emergency demolition and temporary repairs.

Many projects in this category, such as reimbursement for police overtime, generally do not involve physical impacts. However, actions such as emergency demolitions may trigger an environmental/historic preservation review.

Debris Removal

Debris removal actions are typically funded through the PA program.

Debris removal includes:

- Clearance of fallen trees and woody debris.
- Debris and sediment clearance from streams.
- Removal of mud and silt deposits.
- Debris collection, staging, and disposal.

Typical activities that would trigger a higher level of review include burning, stream clearing, and using a non-permitted disposal site.

Emergency Actions

Some emergency actions, such as construction of a temporary stream-crossing, and demolition of unsafe structures, do have physical impacts. These activities are subject to an environmental/historic preservation review. The compliance process for these actions is often addressed with expedited emergency procedures that rely on early coordination between Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies.

Repairs

FEMA funds a wide variety of repair projects. Under PA, these projects include repairs to public facilities, usually to pre-disaster conditions. Repairs to pre-disaster condition must be reviewed for compliance with environmental/historic preservation requirements. These requirements will be addressed in Modules 2 and 3.

In the Individual Assistance (IA) program, funding is available for the minimal repair of private residences. However, these activities are exempt from environmental/historic preservation review.

Modification, Expansion, and Mitigation

Projects involving modification, expansion, or mitigation of existing structures usually encounter more environmental and historic preservation issues than projects involving repair to pre-disaster condition. These projects may be funded under the PA or hazard mitigation programs.

One of the most obvious examples of extensive modification to an existing facility is demolition. Other examples include:

- Building an addition
 - Retrofitting
 - Floodproofing
 - Elevation
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New Construction and Ground Disturbance

This category has the greatest potential to affect environmental/historic resources. Examples of these types of activities include:

- Constructing new facilities.
 - Changing water courses or topography by adding flood control features or structures.
 - Preparing a site for temporary housing units.
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Lesson Summary

You have now completed the fifth lesson in the Disaster Operations and FEMA Programs section of this course. You should be able to identify the types of FEMA-funded activities that may require an environmental/historic preservation review.
