



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
Puerto Rico Division

# **FHWA's EMERGENCY RELIEF (ER)PROGRAM**

Presented by:

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# Agenda

- Lesson-1: ER Program Overview
- Lesson-2: ER Application Process
- Lesson-3: Eligibility of Damage Repair Work
- Lesson-4: Emergency Repairs vs. Permanent Repairs
- Lesson-5: Disaster Assessment & Damage Survey  
Summary Report
- Lesson-6: Project Procedures & Requirements
- Questions

# Purpose & Intent

- Provide information to Federal, State, and local agencies on FHWA's response and recovery during emergency events. Discuss what are the policies and procedures for requesting, obtaining and administering ER funds.
- Answer common questions that arise implementing the ER program.

# Lesson-1

## Chapter I

# Emergency Relief



# Program Overview

## Publications Available:

- Emergency Relief Manual – Recent update May 31, 2013
- Web address: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/erm>
- Summary of changes from previous versions
- Recent Memos:
  - Management of Emergency Relief Funds (01/13/12)
  - \*\*Debris Removal Policy (2/16/12)
  - Eligibility of Work Performed by National Guard (04/05/12)

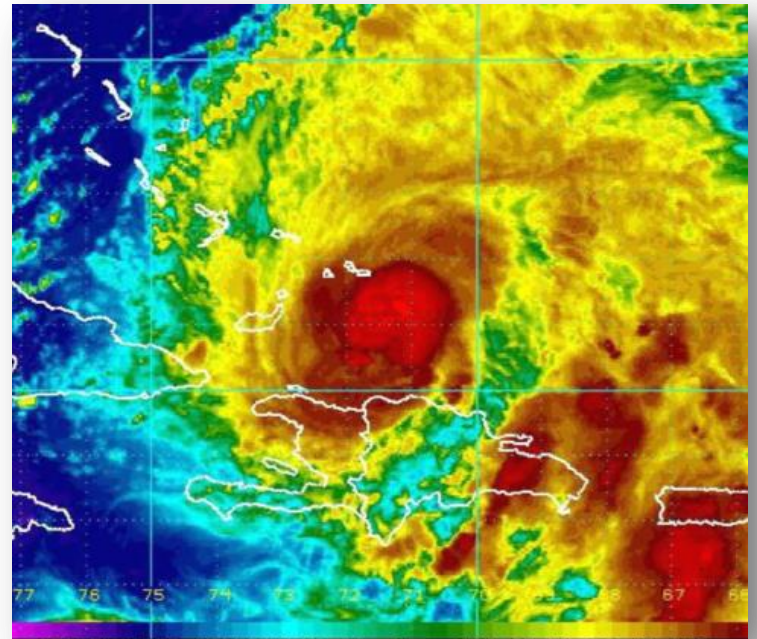
# Two Separate Federal Disaster Programs



- FHWA - Emergency Relief
- FEMA - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance ACT

# Emergency Relief (ER) Program

- Special program from the Highway Trust Fund authorized in Title 23 USC Section 125(a) for the repair and/or reconstruction on Federal-aid highways and roads that have suffered damages due to:
  - 1) Natural Disasters
  - 2) Catastrophic Failures as result of external cause.



# 1) Natural Disasters:

## ■ 23 CFR 668.103(f)

...sudden and unusual natural occurrence

... which causes serious damage



- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Tornadoes
- Landslides



## 2) Catastrophic Failures:

### ■ 23 CFR 668.103(b)

- ...sudden failure of a major element or segment of the highway systems due to an external cause.
- ...not be primarily attributable to gradual and progressive deterioration...



## Example of Catastrophic Failures



# Emergency Relief Program under MAP-21

## *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21)*

- Authorized at \$100 million per year
- State must apply and provide a complete list of project sites and costs within 2 years of event
- May not exceed cost to repair/reconstruct comparable facility
- Emergency repairs—
  - Option for Secretary to extend the 180-day limit on emergency repairs at 100% when access to damaged areas is limited
  - For permanent repairs, up to 90% share if cost  $\geq$  State's annual apportionments
- Debris removal from Stafford Act disasters funded by FEMA
- Maintenance/operation of additional ferryboats or transit eligible as substitute service

# Role of FHWA

- Reporting of Natural Disasters and Catastrophic Failures
- Administer Emergency Relief Program
- Implement Policies and Procedures
- Provide Technical Assistance & Training
- Assist in Developing Emergency Relief Application



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# Role of State DPW

- Request Emergency Relief Funding
- Participate on Detailed Damage Teams
- Identify Damage Sites
- Identify Federal-Aid Highways
  - Typically ineligible for FHWA relief if route is not a Federal-aid Highway
- Administer Permanent Restoration (PR) Projects
- Complete Emergency Repairs (ER)



# ER Funding Overview

- The total ER obligations for U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Virgin Islands) is limited to \$20 million in any fiscal year.
- \$100 Million per Event per State
- Higher Cap w/Special Legislation
- Minimum \$700,000 threshold in damages per event
- Any site less than \$5,000 is not eligible because it is considered heavy maintenance.



- ER funds are not intended to cover all damage repair .
- Permanent repair work is reimbursed at the normal pro rata share of 90% for Interstate and 80% for all other Federal roads. Need FHWA approval.
- Emergency repair work is reimbursed 100% if performed during the first 180 days after the event. After 180 days pro rata will apply. May begin with out prior FHWA approval.

# Pre-training Quiz

Try this Quiz on the  
Emergency Relief Program



# What does ER stand for?

- A) Emergency Repair
- B) Emergency Restoration
- C) Emergency Relief
- D) Emergency Request
- E) All of the above

# What does EO stand for?

- A) Emergency Operation
- B) Emergency Offering
- C) Emergency Opening
- D) Emergency Overhead
- E) Emergency Ongoing

# How many days is EO funding eligible for 100% FHWA ER funds?

- A) 90 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- B) 120 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- C) 150 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- D) 180 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- E) Until contract is completed

# How many days is PR funding eligible for 100% FHWA ER funds?

- A) Never
- B) 150 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- C) 180 days from start of declared disaster, then % defaults to applicable pro-rate share
- D) Until contract is completed
- E) Only if approved as incidental to EO work

# Environmental clearance of NEPA stands for?

- A) National Environmental Protection Act
- B) National Environmental Policy Agency
- C) National Environmental Policy Act
- D) National Environmental Payment Act
- E) National Environmental Procedure Act

# What routes are eligible for FHWA ER funds?

- A) All federal-aid routes
- B) Federal-aid system
- C) State system
- D) Rural roads and rural minor collectors
- E) All routes on the federal-aid system  
except local roads and rural minor collectors

What is the minimum cost threshold for eligible ER work per site?

- A) \$3,000
- B) \$4,000
- C) \$5,000
- D) \$10,000
- E) \$15,000

# When can EO work begin?

- A) ASAP
- B) After State approval
- C) After FHWA approval
- D) After State and FHWA approval
- E) After Resource Agency approval



# What are the 3 main criteria for EO work?

- A) Safety
- B) Restore essential traffic
- C) Permanent repair
- D) Minimize extent of damage
- E) Protect remaining facilities

# Which one of these is typically NOT an eligible ER item?

- A) Engineering and R-O-W
- B) Detours
- C) Work outside of R-O-W
- D) Preventive work prior to disaster
- E) Environmental mitigation

# Which one of these is essential for a positive eligibility finding?

- A) Take pictures
- B) Have an approved DAF from FHWA or designated State
- C) Provide functional classification map number on DAF
- D) Assure work is disaster related
- E) All of above

You have finished the Quiz.

Thank you for your interest in the  
Emergency Relief Program.