



FEMA



UFR Interagency Working Group Newsletter

The UFR Interagency Working Group Newsletter is a biannual publication that covers an agency highlight, industry news, disaster declarations/updates, as well as FEMA’s recent and upcoming program and policy activities and announcements.

- [Agency Highlight](#)
- [Disaster Updates](#)
- [UFR Publications and FEMA Updates](#)

Agency Highlight

The UFR Interagency Working Group Newsletter highlights a partner agency’s efforts in environmental and historic preservation for disaster recovery. This edition of the Newsletter will focus on the ongoing efforts of FEMA. FEMA is the agency responsible for emergency management, and their mission is, “Helping people before, during and after disasters.” FEMA’s legislative authority comes from the Stafford Act (1988) which gives FEMA the responsibility to coordinate federal assistance and triggers funding mechanisms when the president declares a disaster or state of emergency.

Much of FEMA’s work involves doling out grants to help restore communities after a disaster through the Public Assistance program which provided \$57 billion in 2022. Other grant programs include Individual Assistance to help disaster survivors and a variety of mitigation grants (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Fire Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community, etc.) to increase community resilience to future disasters. In addition to grants, FEMA provides guidance to SLTTs and the public on developing and adopting natural hazard-resistant codes and land use recommendations, and acts as a subject matter expert on disasters and emergency management.

<p>WHAT WE DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist decision makers by facilitating integration of agencies’ processes to expedite EHP reviews to ensure timely implementation of disaster recovery projects • Reduce duplication and redundancy in processes and materials needed from applicants working with multiple federal agencies • Leverage existing and new interagency agreements and processes • Align review processes and joint reviews between agencies to satisfy multiple EHP requirements 	<p>VALUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce confusion or duplication of effort for disaster recovery • Foster and encourage coordination • Create and promote efficiency and consistency • Work with communities to foster better outcomes and environmental decision making
UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW	
<p>GOAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UFR Steering Group and UFR signatories maintain and improve leadership and staff understanding at all levels (Headquarters, Regional, Field) of UFR to ensure it is consistently implemented and communicated accurately across the federal family 	<p>LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UFR Interagency and Internal Working Groups • Regional Environmental Officer & UFR Coordinator • Federal Disaster Leaders • Recovery Support Functions Field Coordinators • State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Jurisdictions • OFA EHP staff • Other Relevant Partners

Environmental & Historic Preservation Guidance for FEMA Grant Applications

As a federal agency, DHS/FEMA is required to consider the effects of its actions on the environment and historic properties to ensure that all activities and programs funded by DHS/FEMA, including grant-funded projects, comply with Federal EHP regulations, laws, and Executive Orders, as applicable. FEMA has around 700 environmental and historic preservation practitioners that can be deployed to the field or region to determine EHP compliance for federal projects or provide expertise on EHP topics for local communities. Interagency cooperation to streamline EHP project reviews speeds the delivery of project funding and disaster recovery.

FEMA's UFR team is managed by the National UFR Coordinator, who serves as the Interagency Coordination Branch Chief within the Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) at FEMA headquarters. OEHP is led by the Assistant Administrator as part of the Resilience Directorate, which reports directly to the FEMA Administrator. FEMA is the managing partner for UFR implementation, and the only agency with dedicated UFR staff. The UFR team works to establish national policy and guidance, create streamlining tools, provide education and outreach, and build partnerships with the eleven Memorandum of Understanding Signatories and their component agencies.

[View More](#)

Disaster Updates

Navajo Nation Severe Winter Storms and Flooding

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available for the Navajo Nation to supplement the tribal recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe winter storms and flooding that occurred.

[Read More](#)

Kentucky Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the Commonwealth of Kentucky to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on March 3-4.

[Read More](#)

Tennessee Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Tornadoes

FEMA is meeting survivors where they are to help jumpstart their recovery from the March 31 - April 1, 2023, severe storms and tornadoes. FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams are going door-to-door in Cannon, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Lewis, Macon, McNairy, Rutherford, Tipton and, Wayne County neighborhoods to help individuals apply for FEMA assistance.

[Read More](#)

Arkansas Severe Winter Storm

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance had been made available on April 4th for Arkansas to supplement disaster recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe winter storms and flooding that occurred on January 30th.

[Read More](#)

California Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

Two Disaster Recovery Centers just opened this week in Santa Cruz County, where residents who were affected by the severe storms and flooding that started on Feb. 21 can get information on disaster assistance.

[Read More](#)

Guam Typhoon Mawar

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the territory of Guam to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by Typhoon Mawar beginning on May 22, 2023, and continuing. Funding is available to territory and eligible local governments and certain nonprofit organizations on cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance for the territory of Guam.

[Read More](#)

New Mexico Las Tusas Fire

Over 980 acres were burned in the Las Tusas Fire on May 10, 2023. The fire was about 13 miles northwest of Las Vegas and the cause is still unknown. FEMA is monitoring the situation and if and when financial assistance is approved, an official announcement will be given.

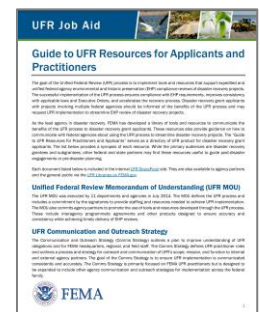
[Read More](#)

To learn more about FEMA declarations and updates, please visit [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

UFR Publications and FEMA Updates

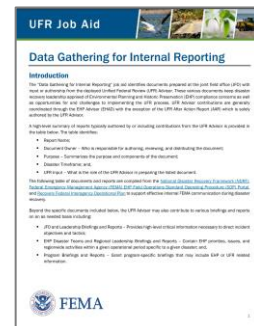
Guide to UFR Resources for Applicants and Practitioners

As the lead agency in disaster recovery, FEMA has developed a library of tools and resources to communicate the benefits of the UFR process to disaster recovery grant applicants. These resources also provide guidance on how to communicate with federal agencies about using the UFR process to streamline disaster recovery projects. The [Guide to UFR Resources for Applicants and Practitioners](#) serves as a directory of UFR products for disaster recovery grant applicants.



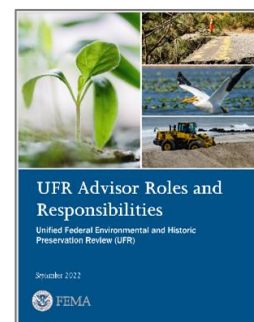
UFR Data Gathering for Internal Reporting

The [UFR Data Gathering for Internal Reporting](#) job aid identifies documents prepared at the joint field office (JFO) with input or authorship from the deployed Unified Federal Review (UFR) Advisor. This document keeps disaster recovery leadership apprised of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliance concerns as well as opportunities for and challenges to implementing the UFR process.



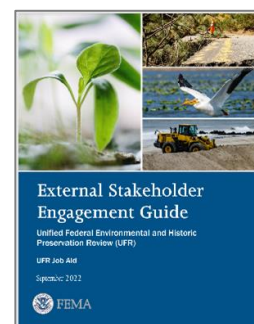
UFR Advisor Roles and Responsibilities

The [UFR Advisor Roles and Responsibilities](#) job aid serves as a reference to the typical roles and responsibilities of the UFR Advisor deployed to a federally declared disaster. This job aid contains position descriptions for key Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) positions in disaster field leadership, FEMA regional offices, and the UFR team at headquarters.



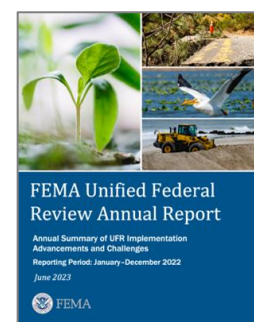
External Stakeholder Engagement Guide

The [External Stakeholder Engagement Guide](#) provides Unified Federal Review (UFR) practitioners guidance on how to engage external stakeholders during disaster recovery operations. In the field, UFR Advisors utilize the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Coordination and Communication Structure to collect information to identify existing and needed UFR resources.



FEMA Unified Federal Review Annual Report

This [annual report](#) synthesizes the results of the FEMA Unified Federal Review (UFR) process-related activities and disaster-specific information from Regions 1 through 10, as reported in UFR regional annual reports. Activities conducted by the Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) under the direction of the UFR National Coordinator are also included in this annual summary.



For more information on implementing the UFR process, including other job aids, templates, and resource documents, visit the [UFR Libraries on FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/ufr-libraries).