FEMA Public Assistance: Category B – Snow Related Activities

FEMA provides limited financial assistance for snow-related activities for a continuous 48-hour period to address the most critical emergency needs. Eligible work includes: snow removal, de-icing, salting, snow dumps, and sanding of roads and other eligible facilities.[1] For additional details about declaration criteria for snow assistance, refer to Appendix H of the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG). Snow assistance is an eligible Public Assistance (PA) Category B emergency protective measure when "the President declares an incident as a Snowstorm or specifically authorizes snow assistance in a major disaster declaration for a Severe Winter Storm" due to a winter storm resulting in a county or tribal area receiving record or near-record snowfall.[2]

Requirements for Snow Assistance

FEMA authorizes snow assistance on a county or parish (hereafter county) basis under the following conditions:

1. ***The request for a Major Disaster Declaration must include a request for snow assistance*** **and the following information (this information is in addition to all the information normally required for Major Disaster Declaration requests):** [3]
   a. Identification of core and contiguous counties[4]
   b. Duration of snowfall according to NWS
   c. Daily snowfall totals from NWS for each county and historical record snowfall data from NCEI
2. **County snowfall must be a record or near-record 1-,2-, or 3-day snowfall:**
   a. FEMA compares current snowfall data validated by the National Weather Service (NWS) with historical records from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).
   b. FEMA may authorize snow assistance for "core counties" that receive record or near-record snowfall and exceed the annually established countywide per capita impact indicator.[5] Additionally, counties contiguous to a core county may be eligible when the "contiguous county" receives as much or more snow as the core county, even if the contiguous county did not meet its record or near record storm criteria.
   c. "FEMA evaluates Tribal lands as either part of a county or separately." (PAPPG, v.4 Appendix H: Snow Assistance)
3. **Severe Winter Storm incident estimated cost of assistance & localized impacts:**

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[1] *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide,* FP 104-009-2, Chapter 7:2.W.1. (June 1, 2020) [hereinafter *PAPPG*].
[2] Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 C.F.R.) § 206.227.
[3] *PAPPG*, Appendix H: Snow Assistance.
[4] A core county is a county that has a record or near record snowfall with PA costs that exceed the annually established countywide per capita impact indicator and is designated for snow assistance under a major disaster declaration. A contiguous county is a county in the same State that shares a common border with a core county without geographic separation other than by a minor body of water, typically not exceeding one mile between the land areas of such counties.
[5] FEMA generally considers near record as being within 10 percent of the record snowfall.

a. In an incident involving snow, counties that do not meet the record or near-record snowfall criteria, and do not qualify as a contiguous county, are not eligible for snow assistance; therefore, cannot include snow removal, de-icing, salting, snow dumps, and sanding of roads costs in documenting a declaration request.

b. These costs should not be included in the preliminary damage assessment (PDA) estimated costs.