ASFPM
Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs)

Floodplain Managers Helping Floodplain Managers
What is a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)?

❖ Cross section of professionals representing local, state, and federal government, the private sector, and other disciplines.

❖ Experience doing damage assessments and other post-flood responsibilities.

❖ DART activities are coordinated and administered by the ASFPM Chapter or State NFIP Coordinator’s office (or both).

❖ DART volunteers must be pre-approved and trained by ASFPM chapters or states.

The primary purpose of DARTs is to help local floodplain managers and communities recover after a disaster. DARTs provide flood experts free-of-charge to local communities following a disaster.
Common Denominators In Every Region or State

- Damage assessments **must** be done (it is not an option).
- Damage assessments must be done **QUICKLY** (while the carp is still floppin’ on the couch).
- Damage assessments are physically and emotionally difficult.
- Consistency remains elusive!
- They can quickly overwhelm local officials after a large event.
- A lot of ASFPM members and chapter members are really good at them.
- Floodplain managers enjoy helping each other.
Teams in FL, LA, OK, SC...
We have all learned the same lessons!

Lessons Learned:

1. Easier & less stressful for community.

2. Personal & caring interaction with residents. Help is accepted better.

3. Provides a scapegoat for community.

4. Quick! The community and residents are on the express train to recovery.

5. Better compliance and mitigation.

6. Great way to train “newbies”.

7. Costs NOTHING!

8. Gain more new friends than you know what to do with!!!
Why DARTs?

❖ Existing state teams have responded to several flood events and performed exceptionally well!

❖ Events ranged from smaller floods to larger federally declared events.

❖ At each event, the state DARTs responded within days.

❖ On each deployment, the teams completed hundreds of damage assessments (and other work) in a single day.

❖ Communities (and DART members) LOVED them!

❖ They exemplify what we as an association SHOULD be doing!
What Can DARTs Do?

Field Inspections
- Document and survey high water marks.
- Identify and map damage areas.
- Collect photo documentation.
- Perform “triage” on damage structures.

Data Collection
- Collect building addresses and map depth-damage data.
- Compile data needed for damage assessments.

Substantial Damage Estimates
- Substantial damage estimate training for local officials.
- Complete damage estimates using the FEMA SDE.

Outreach /Education
- Assist with education on post-disaster requirements.
- Operate informational booths or kiosks.
- Develop handouts or summary documents for citizens.
- Post notices or door hangers on impacted structures.

Mitigation Advice
- Provide mitigation program outreach and education.
- Gather data needed for mitigation grant development.

Drone Reconnaissance
- Perform safety reconnaissance for the community.
- Collect aerial imagery of flood damage.

States/Chapter teams will determine capabilities and services provided.

Field Team Responsibilities: Deploy immediately after flood; prioritize rescues; document high water marks; identify and map damage areas; collect photo documentation; perform “triage” on damage structures.

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ASFPM’s Vision for DARTs

1. Locally driven teams within each state for quick response.
2. DART activities are administered by the Chapter or State (or both).
3. DART volunteers are trained by chapters or states.
5. Memorandum of Understanding with state EMAs.
6. Address liability and reimbursement concerns.
7. Uniformity on training, logistics, qualifications, administration, etc.
8. Take advantage of programs to reimburse mutual aid assistance (DRAA Section 1206).

The DART Pyramid

- **Large/Cat. Event**
  - Interstate Deployment
  - EMAC Ready

- **State/Regional Event**
  - Coordinate with EMA & SC Mutual Aid Agreements

- **Smaller/Local Event**
  - State or Chapter Team
  - Independent
Base of the DART Pyramid
State or Chapter Teams
(examples = Illinois and Oklahoma)

❖ No formal state or federal administrative process.
❖ Administered by the Chapter.
❖ Volunteers and host community sign individual liability waivers.
❖ A chapter or state team coordinator does logistical work.
❖ State Coordinator plays a large role.
❖ No reimbursement expected.
❖ Fast. Efficient. Effective!
Middle of the DART Pyramid
State EMA Coordination

(example = Florida)

- DART assistance is formally requested through the County or Parish EMA.
- County or Parish EMA then contacts the State EMA to coordinate community assistance.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the DART and the State EMA is required.
- Reimbursement, liability, and other concerns are addressed in the State MOU.
- Potential for reimbursement with federal declaration using PA (DRAA 1206).
Top of the DART Pyramid
National Response Teams and EMAC

(example = Louisiana)

- Using Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).
- Enables sharing of services, personnel, equipment, and commodities.
- No federal declaration required for EMAC.
- All 50 states are members of EMAC.
- Reimbursement and liability issues covered by EMAC agreement.
- Detailed Mission Ready Package (MRP) required.
- ASFPM developing a template package for DARTs.
- Uniformity and training are key!
State Mutual Aid Legislation Varies Widely

- Opt-out vs Opt-in programs?
- Limited to first responders or health care workers?
- Are State EMAs aware of FP regulations and sub dam?
- Should all DART activities be coordinated with state EMAs?


Fact Sheets: https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat/fact-sheets
Training and DART Development

- **National Consistency.** Uniformity is the key to a successful national program.

- ASFPM working with FEMA, EMI, and NEMA to develop uniform substantial damage, SDE, PA (1206), and EMAC training program for DARTs.

- ASFPM will provide training for DART Coordinators (team logistics and consistency).

- States will coordinate teams independently.

- ASFPM will coordinate national program and EMAC response.

- Training needs and a DART website link.
All DART volunteers sign a liability waiver.

- All host communities sign a liability waiver.

- Existing state and federal mutual aid programs also provide additional liability protection.

- Nearly all states have liability protection.

What About Costs?

DART members are all volunteers. Unless pre-arranged or established through state mutual aid laws, per diem and travel are not reimbursed.

Some states have established in-state reimbursement programs via MOUs.

How About Reimbursement?

During larger disaster declarations or Federal declarations, existing reimbursement frameworks (such as FEMA Public Assistance/Section 1206, or EMAC) are available to reimburse travel and deployment costs if needed.
So, What’s Next?

- DART playbook and guidance.
- Website for DART (the Dartboard).
- Templates, tools, and examples.
- Uniform training and logistics.
- Partnership with National Emergency Management Association.
- Join EMAC committee and develop Mission Ready Packages.
- Coordinate DART activities to ensure recognition and reimbursement.
- Develop pilot program with 8 states.
Thank you

Questions? Concerns? Suggestions?
Contact ASFPM!

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