



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District's Role in Emergency Management

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Buffalo District
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District often receives inquiries from individuals about assisting the public, but few know what type of assistance the Corps can provide and how to actually achieve assistance. This document will summarize our role in Emergency Management and what type of assistance we can provide.

Does your group or you need assistance?

Have you sought help from your Local, County, State Governments?

NO

Contact Local, County, State help first and check with USACE **Regulatory Branch** for permits for work in waters, i.e. lakes, bays, rivers, streams, etc.

Request assistance from **Planning Branch** through Planning Assistance to the States (PAS) or Continuing Authority Program (CAP).

YES

Which Phase Are You In?



PREPAREDNESS

Develop emergency response plans, training & exercises.

Request assistance from **Planning Branch** through PAS for large public projects, or **Regulatory Branch** to seek a permit for private funded projects

RESPONSE

Responding to emergency events to provide life safety, incident stabilization, property preservation, evacuation & shelters, and providing mass care.

RECOVERY

Working towards economic recovery, debris management, housing concerns, health & social services.

Request assistance from **Emergency Management Office** through State and contact **Regulatory Branch** for private projects proposing work in waters

MITIGATION

A good time to perform hazard & vulnerability assessments and/or improve infrastructure.

Request assistance under PL84-99 from **Emergency Management Office**
Request must come from the State.

Emergency Management

During response operations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District Emergency Management Office conducts emergency operations to save lives and protect improved properties (i.e. public facilities/services and residential/commercial developments) in accordance with Public Law (PL) 84-99. PL 84-99 assistance includes providing technical support and direct support during flood operations.

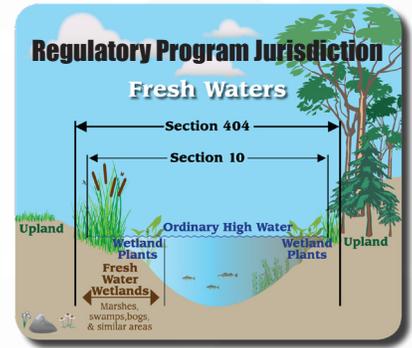
Under technical support, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District Emergency Management Office can deploy subject matters experts to the affected area to provide guidance on flood fight techniques, inspect existing flood protection projects and recommend corrective measures. Under direct assistance, we can provide materials to include sandbags and plastic sheeting to supplement local, and state supplies should they become exhausted.

Assistance is supplemental to local and State efforts and normally at the request of the State's governor. To find out more about the Buffalo District Emergency Management Office: <https://go.usa.gov/xm59p>

Regulatory Branch

Every year, citizens of New York & Ohio begin work on numerous, personal construction projects that could potentially impact the Nation's rivers, streams, wetlands, and other aquatic resources that may require a permit from the Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Branch. Many of these projects have tremendous value for individuals, communities, and the economy.

The Corps of Engineers has jurisdictional authority under Section 10 of the River & Harbors Act for any work in, over, or under navigable waterways, and under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for any discharge of fill material into Waters of the United States to help ensure that environmental impacts on aquatic resources associated with these projects are avoided, minimized, and mitigated.



In the event of natural disasters such as flooding, emergency permit procedures can be activated to expedite permits to reduce further damage, and protect life and property. To learn more about permitting requirements, please visit our website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xm59V>

Planning Branch

The Corps of Engineers has authority under Section 22 of the 1974 Water Resources Development Act to provide Planning Assistance to the States and Indian nations (PAS). The program is used to prepare plans to manage water and related land resources. Federal appropriations vary from year to year; there is a maximum of \$5M per state or federally recognized Indian nation per year to work on PAS studies. Costs are shared 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal basis. Types of work that can be done include comprehensive planning, water quality studies, wetland evaluation studies, floodplain management studies, Coastal Zone management/protection studies, harbor/port studies, or other water resource planning investigations that may be valid. <https://go.usa.gov/xm59E>

Similarly, the Corps of Engineers has authority under the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) to construct small projects such as water resource, flood-risk mitigation, and environmental restoration within specific federal funding limits. The total cost of a project is shared among the federal government and a non-federal sponsor(s). <https://go.usa.gov/xm595>



Non-federal sponsor requests for assistance should be in the form of a letter describing the location and nature of the problem and requesting assistance under the program. Then submitted to the current Buffalo District commander and District Engineer.

CONTACT US

Additional information can be found on our website at: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/>

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Emergency Management Office: (716)879-4160
Planning Branch Office:(716)879-4407 (PAS); (716)879-4187 (CAP)
Regulatory Branch Office: (716)879-4330, LRB.Regulatory@usace.army.mil