



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Ice and Water Mission

USACE MISSION

As the nation's primary federal engineering agency, Americans rely on the Corps of Engineers' response during natural disasters and other emergencies. Throughout the Nation's history, citizens have relied on the Army to respond to their needs in disasters. In a typical year, the Corps of Engineers responds to more than 30 Presidential disaster declarations, plus numerous state and local emergencies. Emergency responses usually involve cooperation with other military elements and Federal agencies in support of State and local efforts. The Corps of Engineers conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities: the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99, as amended) and the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended). Under the Stafford Act, the Corps supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in carrying out the National Response Plan, which calls on 27 Federal departments and agencies to provide coordinated disaster relief and recovery operations. Under this plan, the Army has the lead responsibility for public works and engineering missions.

Assistance under the Stafford Act is provided only when state, regional and local resources are exhausted. Local governments must request assistance through the Regional Unified Command Structure or appropriate state channels. The Corps of Engineers can deploy Local Government Liaisons (LGLs) to impacted Regional Unified Command centers and/or counties to provide information about recovery missions and for coordination assistance.

Under the National Response Plan and at FEMA's direction, USACE may provide local and State government Technical Assistance and Direct Federal Assistance by providing turn-key management of emergency supplies of potable water (bottled and bulk) and bagged ice to include planning, procurement, transportation, distribution, testing, and disposal.

- Technical Assistance may include (but is not limited to):

- (1) Advance planning and preparedness, participation in exercises.
- (2) Assessing disaster commodity requirements (via models).
- (3) Determining requirements and optimum locations for staging and distribution sites.

(4) Coordination of transportation resources.

(5) Recommendations on commodity types (wet versus dry ice, bottled versus bulk water).

- Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) may include (but is not limited to):

(1) PROCUREMENT

i. Supplies of bottled or bulk water up to 24,000,000 liters delivered over a 3-day period (up to 6,000,000 liters within 24 hours). Bottled water is purchased in sizes of 12 ounces to 1.5 liters and is transported in trailers with an average load of 18,000 liters (serves about 5,000 people).

ii. Supplies of packaged ice up to 10,000,000 pounds within a 48 hour period with refrigerated storage. Packaged ice is purchased in sizes of 5 to 20 pounds and is transported in refrigerated trailers with an average load of 40,000 pounds (serves about 5,000 people).

(2) TRANSPORTATION of purchased commodities to one or more staging and/or distribution sites. Includes movement from staging areas to points of distribution. Delivery may be either USACE contractor or Government-furnished transportation.

(3) LOADING/UNLOADING of trailer and reefers.

(4) STORAGE (reefers or warehousing) of purchased or government-furnished commodities at staging sites outside impacted areas or distribution sites in impacted areas.



Ice stacked for distribution.

Under normal circumstances the Commodities mission is executed at 75% to 100% Federal cost and 0% to 25% local cost through completion of the mission. Cost share is determined by FEMA based on level of damage and area of impact. Eligibility of request is determined by FEMA. Congressional directives can expand or modify the level of assistance that can be provided to local government. The Corps maintains pre-awarded ice and water contingency contracts that permit contractors to begin mobilizing within 24 to 48 hours of activation. Activation usually occurs several days before landfall of a hurricane which allows commodities to be pre-staged and ready to move into impacted areas immediately after landfall. Each contract requires subcontracting with local contractors to “the maximum extent practicable” as required by the Stafford Act

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Local Government

- Identify and prioritize requirements needed, including where, what, when, how.
- Request assistance through appropriate state channels to ensure state and regional resources are exhausted.
- Provide necessary permits and licenses.
- Provide real estate support to include rights-of-entry and land for staging and distribution.
- Provide assistance in the testing, handling, and disposal of contaminated commodities.
- Identify the type (I, II, of III) of points of distribution.
- Provide points of distribution traffic control.
- Provides labor and material handling equipment for local staging and points of distribution.
- Issues information to media regarding where and when points of distribution are operating.
- Provide maps of critical transportation routes and critical facilities.
- Provide a POC for each staging and point of distribution.

State Government

- Validates, consolidates, and prioritizes local government requests.
- Provides state and regional staging areas with material handling equipment.
- Receives and issues donated and state contracted commodities.
- Provides regulatory support, guidance, and oversight.

FEMA

- Validates eligibility and priority of State government requests.

- Validates scope of work and performance criteria of how fast, how much, how often.

USACE

- Manages commodity contracts to execute assigned mission.
- Manages the movement of commodity from staging warehouses.
- Monitors all commodities to include donated, local, State, and Federal government.
- Coordinates with local, State, and Federal agencies on commodity processes.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

- Who will provide rights of entry/hold harmless document?
- Where will staging areas and points of distribution be located?
- What will be the operating hours of the staging areas and points of distribution?
- Who and how many will staff staging areas and points of distribution?
- Who will provide the material handling equipment needed for staging and points of distribution?
- How will security be provided?
- How will the public be advised of locations and hours of operations?
- How will contaminated commodities be dealt with?
- What are the processes to provide commodities and can an example of each be shown?
 - Staging
 - How much commodity should I keep at a staging area?
 - Who can release commodities from a staging area?
 - Requirements
 - How much will I pass out to each vehicle at a point of distribution?
 - Distribution
 - Testing/Contamination
- At what point will commodities no longer be distributed, i.e. when power returns, when commercial stores open, or when shelters are closed?

 <p>US Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District</p>	<p>CONTACT INFORMATION: Gus Marinos, Chief of Emergency Management 409-766-3956 www.swg.usace.army.mil/corpshurricaneresponse</p>
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