



Reporting Your Damages

The importance of the initial **local assessment** of damages cannot be over emphasized. This process is essential in determining:

- What happened and how it has affected individuals and communities.
- How residential, business and infrastructure property has been affected.
- Which areas were hardest hit.
- Which situations must be given response priority.
- What types of assistance are needed (e.g., local, state, or federal).

Accurate and timely damage reporting is crucial to successfully requesting and receiving federal assistance in the form of either low-interest loans or grants to help Pennsylvania's citizens, businesses and infrastructure recover from a disaster. The recovery process begins with the identification of damages at the **local level** and the expeditious reporting of those damages within the emergency management channels:

- Individuals and businesses report property damages to the **community's** Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Elected Officials report municipal property and infrastructure damages to the **community's** Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Community Emergency Management Coordinators report damages to residential, business and municipal property and infrastructure within their community to the **County** Emergency Management Coordinator.
- County Emergency Management Coordinators report overall damages to residential, business and municipal property and infrastructure within their county to **PEMA** using the Initial Damage Reporter function of the automated Pennsylvania Emergency Information Reporting System (PEIRS).