



Local Nation/World Sports Business Entertainment Living Neighborhoods Opinion Obituaries Education Military Español

Local

- ▶ 125 years
- ▶ Frontpage.pdf
- ▶ Tip line
- ▶ Search Archives
- ▶ Faces & Places
- ▶ Week's Top Photos
- ▶ Calendar
- ▶ Texas lottery
- ▶ New Mexico lottery

News

- ▶ Local
- ▶ Nation/World
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Entertainment
- ▶ Living
- ▶ Opinion
- ▶ Obituaries
- ▶ Neighborhoods
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Military
- ▶ Español

Print Article Email Article

Article Launched: 08/05/2006 12:00:00 AM MDT

FEMA will begin adding up damage on Sunday

By Brandi Grissom / Austin Bureau

AUSTIN -- Federal Emergency Management Agency officials are on their way to El Paso and will start damage assessments Sunday, an official said, but approval of a federal disaster declaration will probably not happen until at least next week.

"That assessment is relevant to the decision-making process as to whether there will be a disaster declaration," said FEMA spokes man David Passey.

Gov. Rick Perry has asked President Bush to declare El Paso a federal disaster area, making federal aid available to families, businesses and local governments.

Passey said FEMA officials expected to receive the paperwork Friday afternoon. Then, he said, work would begin on assessing whether enough damage has been done in the city to warrant federal aid.

He said six FEMA teams would survey the damage. Three teams will survey homes and businesses and determine the amount of damage and level of insurance coverage for those properties. Three other teams will assess damage to local roads, bridges, water and sewer systems and other infrastructure.

Federal officials could grant two types of aid, Passey said: grants and loans for individuals and businesses, and grants and loans for infrastructure.

He said El Pasoans who have flood insurance are already eligible for FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Those without flood insurance, he said, would have to rely on other public assistance programs.

No FEMA assistance will be available until a federal disaster declaration is approved, Passey said.



People looked down at a giant sinkhole created from flood waters at Esther Lama and Henry Brennan in East El Paso Friday. (Rudy Gutierrez / El Paso Times)

Advertisement

Rental Search  
SEARCH BY

apartments.com

Map City/State Corporate Housing



But he said that should not stop anyone from going forward with recovery efforts. State, local and charity organizations such as the Red Cross should be primary sources of assistance for El Pasoans, Passey said.

"If it's safe for people to return to their neighborhoods and it's safe for them to start the cleanup process, we certainly encourage people to go ahead and start doing that," he said.

Passey said it would be good to keep an inventory of lost or damaged items and to photograph damage so the information can be included with federal disaster recovery assistance applications if the aid becomes available.

If the federal government declares a disaster, he said, applications for FEMA assistance will be available online and will be relatively easy to obtain and submit.

He added, though, that no one should labor under the misconception that any FEMA assistance granted would cover the entirety of flood recovery costs.

"We provide them with the basics to help start their recovery," he said.

Brandi Grissom may be reached at bgrissom@elpasotimes.com; (512) 479-6606.

RETURN TO TOP

More local stories

- FEMA will begin adding up damage on Sunday
- Floodwaters carry disease, pollutants
- Pumping cuts water level in Juárez dam
- Volunteers still needed everywhere
- Evacuees opt to stay as rain returns
- Owners of damaged homes get tax break
- Some homes in Canutillo still under water
- Evacuation creates police-heavy ghost town in Segundo Barrio
- Dam on Fort Bliss spills into community
- Flooding: Send us your photos

ONLINE ONLY

SALE ON LG PHONES

cingular

2-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

**[Disaster Assistance Loan](#)**

Up To \$150K With No Taxes or Fees! Easy  
Repayment Using Visa/MC Sales.  
[www.Business-Cash-Advance.com](http://www.Business-Cash-Advance.com)

**[23 Yr Old Makes Big Bucks](#)**

Learn Simple System That Makes Me More  
Money Than My Parents Combined  
[www.FastFortuneNow.com](http://www.FastFortuneNow.com)

**[Surplus Military Tents](#)**

Over 2,500 Tents In Stock US Mil. Surplus &  
Relief Goods  
[www.armytents.com](http://www.armytents.com)

Copyright 2006 by the El Paso Times and MediaNews Group and/or wire services and suppliers.  
None of the content on this site may be republished or reused in any way without the written permission of the copyright holder.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [MNG Corporate Site Map](#)