

FEMA National Watch Center

Daily Operations Briefing

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

8:30 a.m. ET



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National Current Operations / Monitoring

New Significant Incidents / Ongoing Operations

- Potomac Interceptor (periodic updates)

Hazard Monitoring

- Critical Fire Weather – Central and Northern Plains

Disaster Declaration Activity

- Amendment No. 2 to FEMA-4899-DR-MS
- Amendment No. 2 to FEMA-4900-DR-LA

Event Monitoring

- No new significant events



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Potomac Interceptor Spill – Washington, D.C.

Situation: On Feb 20, the President approved a Federal Emergency Declaration providing federal assistance to Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia following the Jan 19, Potomac Interceptor (PI) sewer line collapse, which discharged 240 million gallons of untreated sewage into the Potomac River. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the designated lead federal agency for response to the PI sewer line collapse. All repairs necessary to restore flow to the Potomac Interceptor **were completed** on Mar 14.

State / Local Response: (*Potomac Interceptor SITREP #21, as of 5:00 p.m. ET, March 16*)

DC HSEMA is Monitoring (PI Sewer Line)

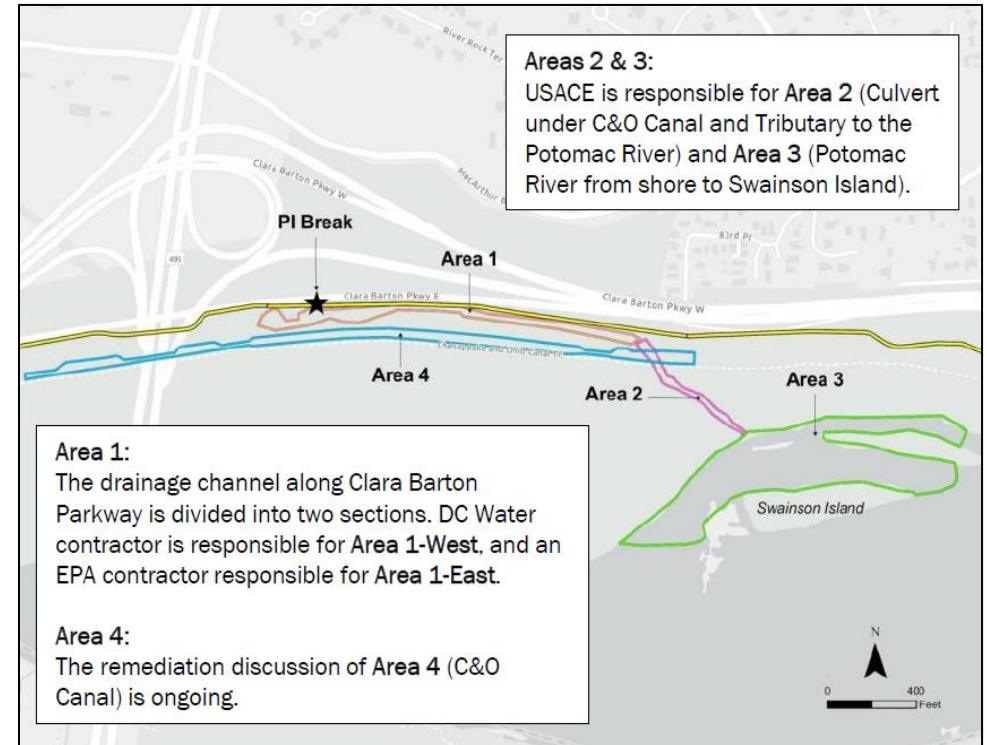
- DC Water continues daily water sampling efforts at 10 sites along the Potomac
- Work continues to waterproof and seal excavated sites
- The pipe's geopolymer lining is fully cured upstream and downstream (*EM-3643 FCO, as of 7:30 a.m. ET*)
- DC Water **estimates the initial phase of rehabilitation will be complete by the end of the week for Areas 1, 2 and 3**
- DC Water has reinforced the Potomac Interceptor on both sides of the collapse and plans to return flow back into the pipe as early as this weekend (*EM-3643 FCO, as of 7:30 a.m. ET*)
- **DC Water hosted a media event over the weekend to document flow returning to the Potomac Interceptor**
- Repairs scheduled for completion by Mar 20
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) lifted the precautionary shellfish harvesting closure on Mar 10

FEMA / Federal Response: (*Potomac Interceptor SITREP #21 as of 5:00 p.m. ET, March 16*)

- EPA-led press conference scheduled for Mar 17 to highlight repair milestones and discuss ongoing remediation
- EPA completed brush removal in Area 1E and is conducting soil sampling in Areas 1 and 2
- EPA **assumed field operations for daily water quality sampling** from DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) on Mar 16
- **USACE completed Area 2 initial remediation and conducted final walkthrough on Mar 15**
- **USACE continues stormwater diversion system and is coordinating with partners to determine criteria for when system is no longer needed**

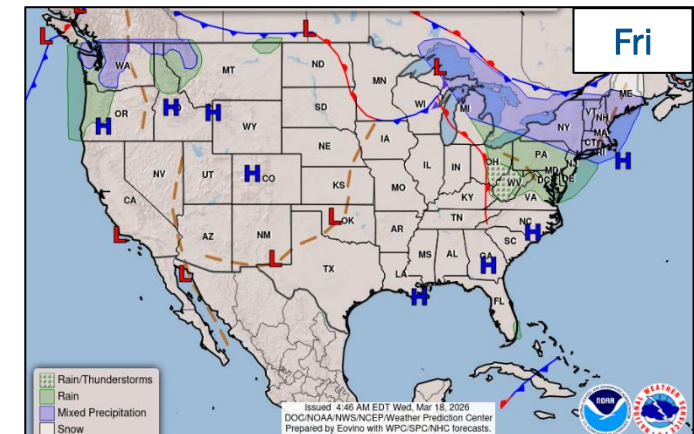
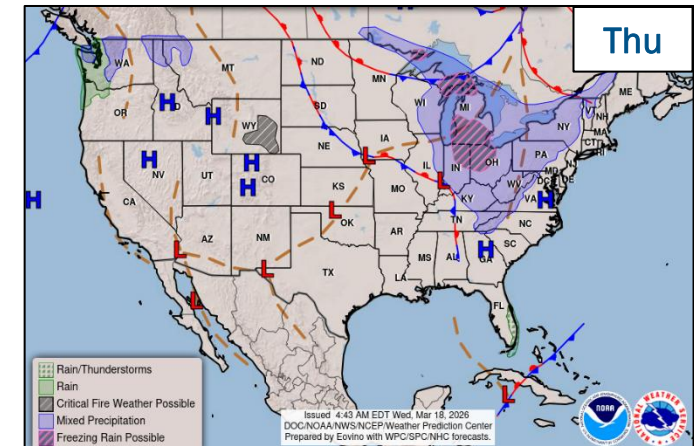
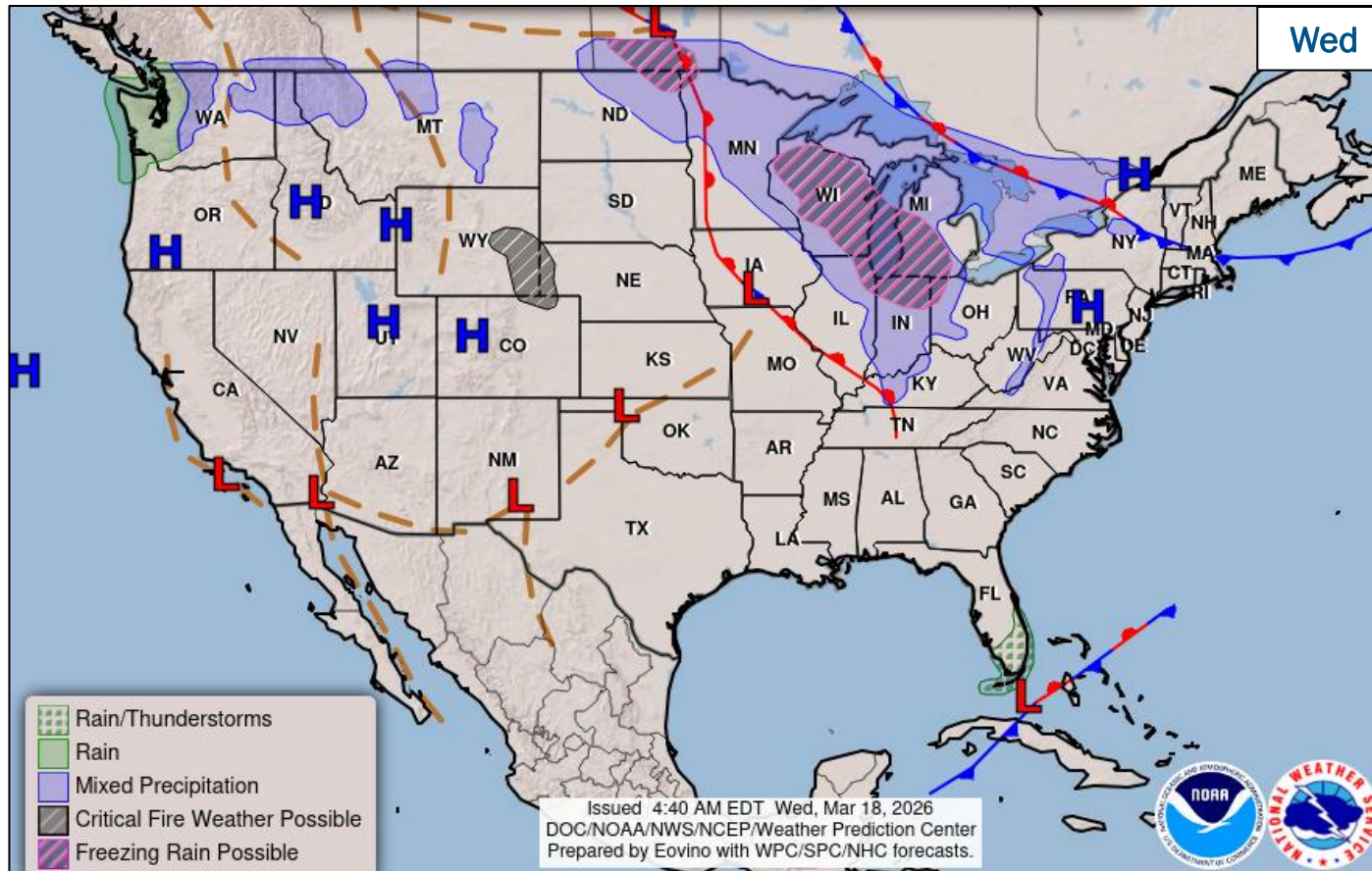
FEMA Region 3: RWC is Monitoring; R-IMAT is deployed to D.C.

HQ: NWC is Monitoring



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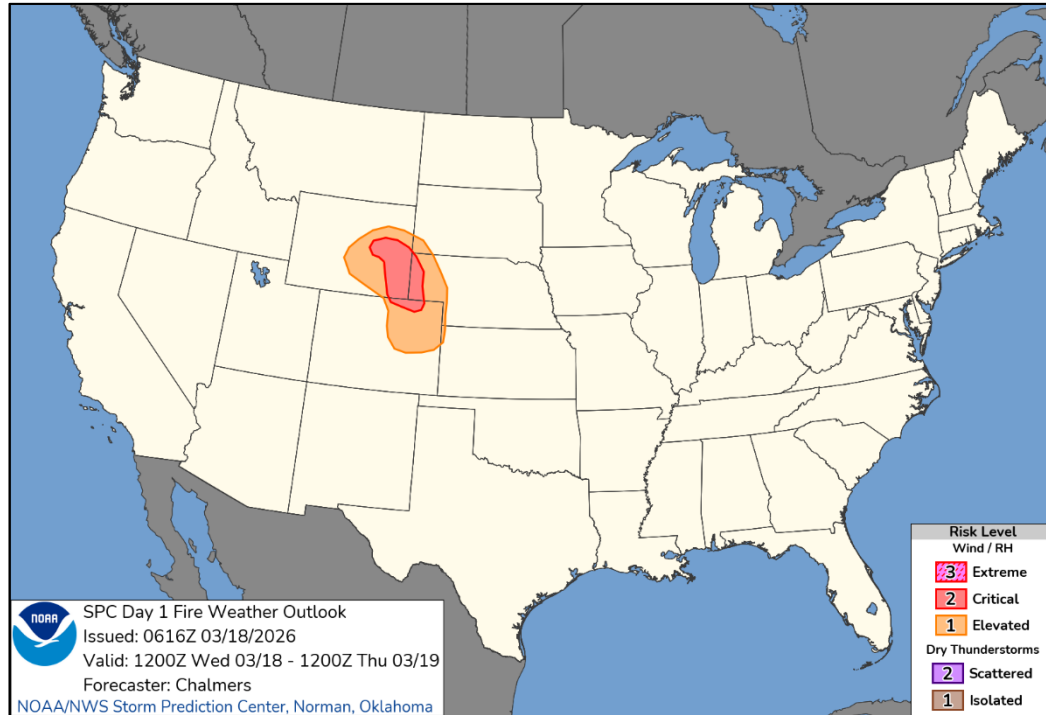
National Weather Forecast



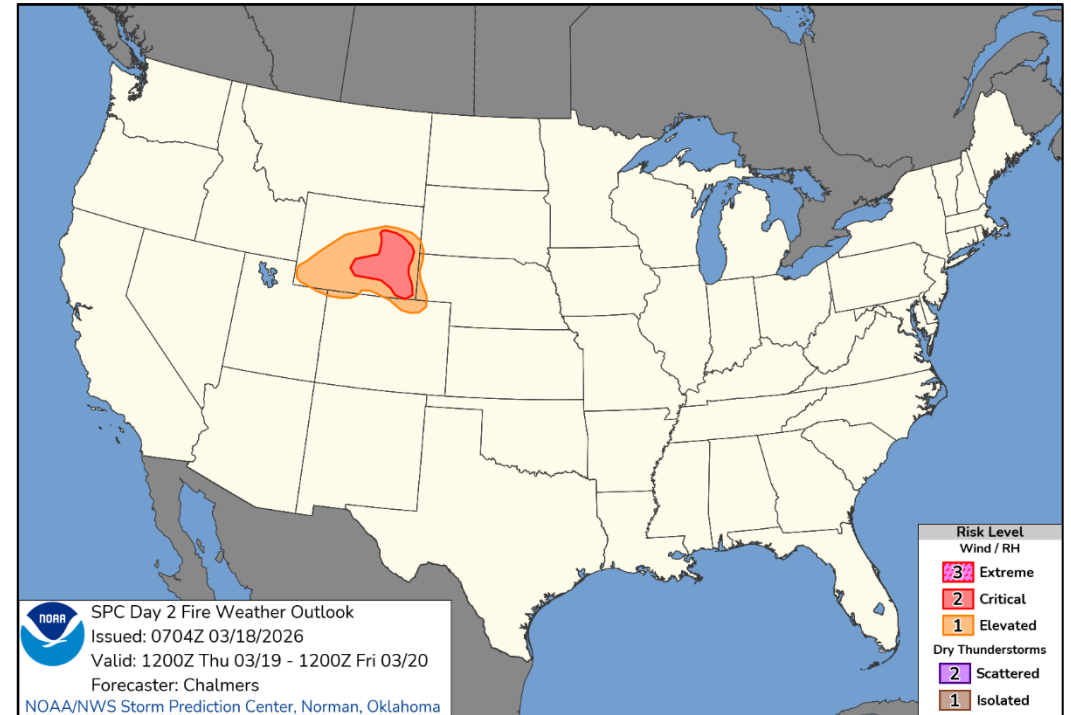
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Fire Weather Outlook



Today



Tomorrow



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Wildfire Summary

Fire Name (County, ST)	FMAG #	Acres Burned	Percent Contained	Evacuations	Structures (Homes / Other)			Fatalities / Injuries
					Threatened	Damaged	Destroyed	
Qury (Custer, SD)	5622-FM-SD	9,059 (+1,859)*	27% (+5)*	M: 400	H: 100	H: 0	H: 6	0 / 0
				V: 0	O: 50	O: 4	O: 5	
Morrill-Cottonwood Complex (Morrill, Garden, Arthur, Keith, Lincoln, and Dawson, NE)	5623-FM-NE	774,620 (+71,277)	16% (-2)	M: 600	H: 345	H: 2	H: 4	1 / 0
				V: 0	O: 0	O: 2	O: 41	
1170 Road (Beckham, OK) FINAL	5624-FM-OK	100+	>80%**	M: LIFTED**	H: N/A**	H: 0	H: 0	0 / 0
				V: 0	O: 2	O: 0	O: 0	

*Region 8 Watch, as of 8:17 a.m. ET

**Region 6 Watch and open sources, as of 6:30 a.m. ET

(Evacuations: M = Mandatory / V = Voluntary; Structures: H = Homes and Mixed Commercial/Residential / O = Non-residential Commercial/Other Minor Structures)



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FEMA Common Operating Picture

14

Joint Field
Offices

Supporting

24

Major
Disasters

+

10

Emergency
Declarations

8

Direct Housing
Missions

5

RSF-Supported
Disasters

6

Joint Recovery
Offices

FEDERAL HQ

NWC

Monitoring

NRCC

Steady State

FEDERAL REGIONS

Watch

Monitoring

RRCC

R1 Rostered

Monitoring

R2 Rostered

Monitoring

R3 Rostered

Monitoring

R4 Rostered

Monitoring

R5 Rostered

Monitoring

R6 Rostered

Monitoring

R7 Rostered

Monitoring

R8 Rostered

Monitoring

R9 Rostered

Monitoring

R10 Rostered

Notes:

NRCC/RWCs/RRCCs:

- R3 RWC: Alternate location effective Feb 22, 2026, for approximately 4 weeks
- R5 RWC: Staffing (Dayshift Only)

State EOCs:

- DC: Potomac Interceptor Sewer Line
- KS/NE: Wildfires
- FL: Previous Incidents
- MS: Winter Storm
- PR: Influenza Epidemic
- HI/OK/TX/WY: Wildfires and Severe Weather
- MD/NY: Repatriation
- AL/DE/KY/IL/MI/NH/TN: Severe Weather

IMATs:

- R4 (1), R9 (1), R9 (2) IMAT: Training

Surge Capacity Force

Rostered

7,965

Deployed

0

N-IMATs

2-5 Teams Available

Red

White

Blue

Gold

HS

R-IMATs

≥ 7 Teams Available

R1

R2

3

R3

R4 (1)

AL * (Mar 15)

R4 (2)

Reconstituting

R5

R6 (1)

R6 (2)

R7

MO (Feb 15)

R8

1

R9 (1)

AL * (Mar 15)

R9 (2)

AL * (Mar 15)

R10

2

Fully Mission Capable (FMC)

Partially Mission Capable (PMC)

Not Mission Capable (NMC)

Deployed

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

	JFO	DR	EM	JRO
R1	0	0	0	0
R2	0	0	0	2
R3	2	1	1	0
R4	6	17	6	1
R5	0	0	0	0
R6	4	4	2	3
R7	0	0	0	0
R8	1	1	1	0
R9	0	0	0	0
R10	1	1	0	0

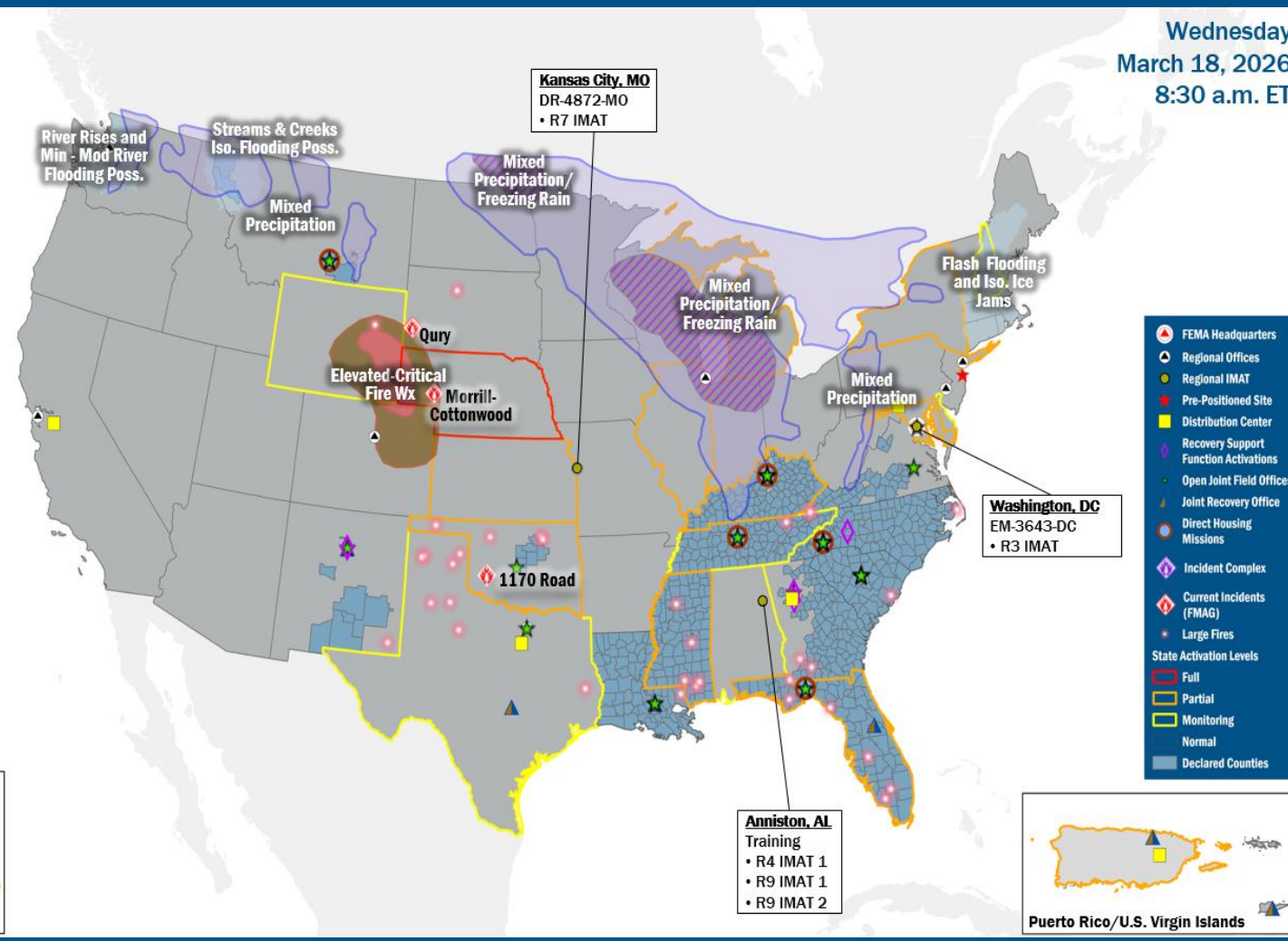
Alaska

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Guam

American Samoa

Hawaii



IM Workforce

11,268 (+1) Assigned

4,126 (+8) Unavailable

2,529 (+5) Deployed

41% / 4,613 (-12) Available

IM Cadre Availability

6 Cadres ≤ 25% Availability

Civil Rights: 24% (23/94); Disability Integration: 19% (3/16); Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation: 20% (125/641); Field Leadership: 19% (23/118); Hazard Mitigation: 20% (154/765); Planning: 20% (68/345)

MERS

≥ 66%

36 Assigned

6 Unavailable

0 Deployed

30 Available

US&R

≥ 66%

28 Assigned

0 Unavailable

0 Deployed

28 Available

FCO

2 Type I

35 Assigned

2 Unavailable

26 (14 FCOR) Deployed

7 Available

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

Region	State / Location	Incident	IA	Number of Counties		Start – End
			PA	Requested	Completed	
1	MA	Severe Winter Storm Feb 22-23	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	6 (-8)	0	3/11 – TBD
	MWT*	Severe Winter Storm Feb 22-23	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	1	0	3/18 – TBD
	RI	Severe Winter Storm	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	5	0	3/12 – TBD
3	DE	Severe Winter Storm Feb 22-23	IA	0	0	N/A
			PA	3	0	3/16 – TBD
5	MI	Severe Weather and Tornadoes Mar 6	IA	3	0	3/16 – TBD
			PA	0	0	N/A

*Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe



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Declaration Requests in Process – 21

State / Tribe / Territory – Incident Description	Type	IA	PA	HM	Requested
AZ – Severe Storms and Flooding – Appeal	DR		X	X	Oct 24
IL – Severe Storms and Flooding – Appeal	DR	X			Nov 21
SCA* – Severe Storms and Flooding	DR	X	X	X	Nov 26
SCA* – Severe Storms and Flooding	DR	X	X	X	Dec 15
MT – Severe Storms and Flooding	DR		X	X	Jan 10
NVK* – Severe Storms, Flooding, and Remnants of Typhoon Halong	DR		X	X	Jan 11
MT – Severe Winter Storms and Straight-line Winds	DR		X	X	Jan 15
CO – Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides – Appeal	DR		X	X	Jan 16
CO – Lee and Elk Fires, Flooding, and Mudslides – Appeal	DR		X	X	Jan 16
WA – Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR	X			Jan 21
SD – Straight-line Winds	DR		X	X	Jan 27
AK – Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds	DR		X	X	Jan 30
KY – Severe Winter Storm	DR		X	X	Feb 5
ID – Straight-line Winds	DR		X	X	Feb 6
FPA & ST* – Severe Storm and Straight-line Winds	DR	X		X	Feb 11
CTM* – Straight-line Winds	DR	X		X	Feb 12
FBIC* – Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds	DR	X		X	Feb 13
OR – Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR		X	X	Feb 18
WA – Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides	DR		X	X	Feb 17
SC – Severe Winter Storm	DR		X	X	Feb 25
GA – Severe Winter Storm	DR		X	X	Mar 12

*San Carlos Apache Tribe / Native Village of Kipnuk / Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes / Crow Tribe of Montana / Fort Belknap Indian Community



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Declaration Amendments

Declaration	Number	Issued	Action
FEMA-4899-DR-MS	2	Mar 17	Adds 4 counties for Public Assistance and 40 counties for emergency protective measures [Category B]
FEMA-4900-DR-LA	2	Mar 16	Adds 5 parishes for Public Assistance and 3 parishes for debris removal and emergency protective measures [Categories A and B]



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Helping people before, during, and after disasters.



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