

# ASFPM Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs)

Floodplain Managers Helping Floodplain Managers



Association of State Floodplain Managers



# What is a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)?

- ❖ Cross section of professionals representing local, state, and federal government, the private sector, and other disciplines.
- ❖ Experience doing damage assessments and other post-flood responsibilities.
- ❖ DART activities are coordinated and administered by the ASFPM Chapter or State NFIP Coordinator's office (or both).
- ❖ DART volunteers must be pre-approved and trained by ASFPM chapters or states.



The primary purpose of DARTs is to help local floodplain managers and communities recover after a disaster. DARTs provide flood experts free-of-charge to local communities following a disaster.



# Common Denominators In Every Region or State

- ❖ Damage assessments must be done (it is not an option).
- ❖ Damage assessments must be done QUICKLY (while the carp is still floppin' on the couch).
- ❖ Damage assessments are physically and emotionally difficult.
- ❖ Consistency remains elusive!
- ❖ They can quickly overwhelm local officials after a large event.
- ❖ A lot of ASFPM members and chapter members are really good at them.
- ❖ Floodplain managers enjoy helping each other.



# Teams in FL, LA, OK, SC...

## We have all learned the same lessons!

### Lessons Learned:

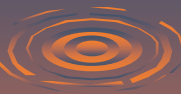
1. Easier & less stressful for community.
2. Personal & caring interaction with residents. Help is accepted better.
3. Provides a scapegoat for community.
4. Quick! The community and residents are on the express train to recovery.
5. Better compliance and mitigation.
6. Great way to train “newbies”.
7. Costs NOTHING!
8. Gain more new friends than you know what to do with!!!






# Why DARTs?



- ❖ Existing state teams have responded to several flood events and performed exceptionally well!
- ❖ Events ranged from smaller floods to larger federally declared events.
- ❖ At each event, the state DARTs responded within days.
- ❖ On each deployment, the teams completed hundreds of damage assessments (and other work) in a single day.
- ❖ Communities (and DART members) LOVED them!
- ❖ **They exemplify what we as an association SHOULD be doing!**



# What Can DARTs Do?

| LFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) OPERATIONS  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Task Force  | Volunteer Role   | Job Requirement  |
| <b>Flood Damage Reconnaissance</b><br><br><b>First Team Responders:</b> Deploy immediately after flood waters recede. Responsible for understanding the magnitude of flooding within a community flood depth data. <b>Typical Deployment Duration:</b> 1-2 days.   | <b>Drone Operator</b>                                    | - Perform safety recon. for windshield assessment team and collect aerial imagery of flood damage<br>- Drone training required; FAA Part 107 License preferred   |
|   | <b>Driver</b>  | - Conduct windshield assessments to identify inundation<br>- Valid driver's license & Use of your own vehicle  |
|   | <b>Navigator/<br/>Flood Damage Documentation</b>         | - Ability to read maps & have good sense of direction<br>- Attention to detail & precision to correctly document street by street post-disaster conditions on a map  |
|   | <b>High-Water Mark Data Collection</b>                   | - Ability to accurately read a measuring tape<br>- Use of ESRI Collector App to record HWM data<br><i>Note: can assume same role as navigator/map maker</i>  |
| <b>SDE Screening &amp; Outreach Ed.</b><br><br><b>Second Team Responders:</b> Deploy to flooded areas identified during flood damage reconnaissance. Volunteers will go door to door to pre-screen homes for potential Substantial Damage Estimates. Flood recovery education is provided to homeowners via doorhanger information and LFMA website. ATC45 Rapid Safety Assessments can be performed at this time if a CBO or designer is present. <b>Typical Deployment Duration:</b> 1-2 days. | <b>SDE Screening</b>                                     | - Collect accurate homeowner and HWM data<br>- If a SDE is warranted, the volunteer must present the homeowner with a letter from the AHJ notifying them that a formal SDE assessment is required.<br>- Substantial Damage Estimate Training (Preferred)<br>- Valid driver's license & use of your own vehicle   |
|   | <b>Outreach Educator</b>                                 | - Educate affected homeowners through use of doorhanger information, LFMA website & moisture meter<br>- Identify & document high-risk vulnerabilities (human & animals) and notify VQADs<br>- Flood Recovery Outreach & Flood Survivor Sensitivity Training (Req)  |
|   | <b>Building Safety Assessor (EMAC/IMAC Capabilities)</b> | - Conduct ATC-45 Rapid Bldg. Assessments (Training, mod. Flood & Wind (Required)<br>- Valid driver's license & use of your own vehicle   |
| <b>Substantial Damage Estimates</b><br><br><b>Third Team Responders:</b> Perform SDE assessments for homes identified in the screening phase. <b>Typical Deployment Duration:</b> 1-5  | <b>SDE Field Assessments (EMAC/IMAC Capabilities)</b>    | - Perform Substantial Damage Estimates using FEMA software (tablet or paper forms)<br>- Assist AHJ with understanding how to interpret the assessment results and prepare SDE notification letters (if needed)<br><i>Note: Delivery must be done by the FPM of the AHJ - SDE field training, building science training, and data entry training (required)</i><br>- Valid driver's license & use of your own vehicle |

States/Chapter teams will determine capabilities and services provided.

## Field Inspections

- Document and survey high water marks.
- Identify and map damage areas.
- Collect photo documentation.
- Perform "triage" on damage structures.

## Data Collection

- Collect building addresses and map depth-damage data.
- Compile data needed for damage assessments.

## Substantial Damage Estimates

- Substantial damage estimate training for local officials.
- Complete damage estimates using the FEMA SDE

## Outreach /Education

- Assist with education on post-disaster requirements.
- Operate informational booths or kiosks.
- Develop handouts or summary documents for citizens.
- Post notices or door hangers on impacted structures

## Permit Processing

- Complete damage assessment database and inventory.
- Assist with damage assessment notifications.
- Assist local staff with post-event permit processing.

## Mitigation Advice

- Provide mitigation program outreach and education.
- Gather data needed for mitigation grant development.

## Drone Reconnaissance

- Perform safety reconnaissance for the community.
- Collect aerial imagery of flood damage.

# ASFPM's Vision for DARTs

1. Locally driven teams within each state for quick response.

2. DART activities are administered by the Chapter or State (or both).

3. DART volunteers are trained by chapters or states.

4. State enabling legislation allowing mutual aid.

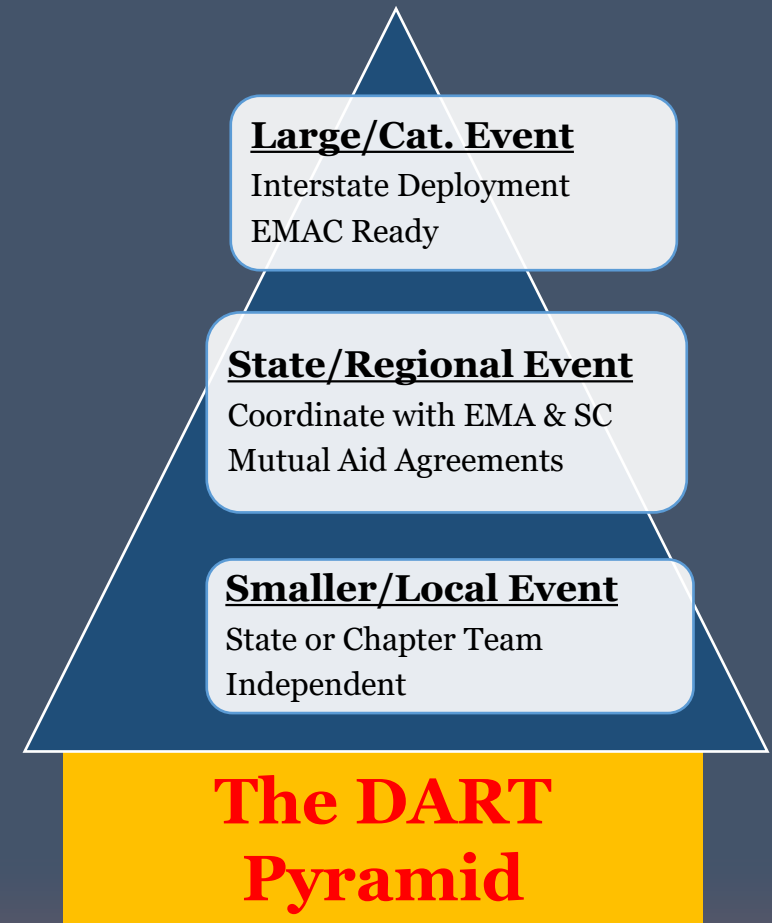
5. Memorandum of Understanding with state EMAs.

6. Address liability and reimbursement concerns.

7. Uniformity on training, logistics, qualifications, administration, etc.

8. Take advantage of programs to reimburse mutual aid assistance (DRAA Section 1206)

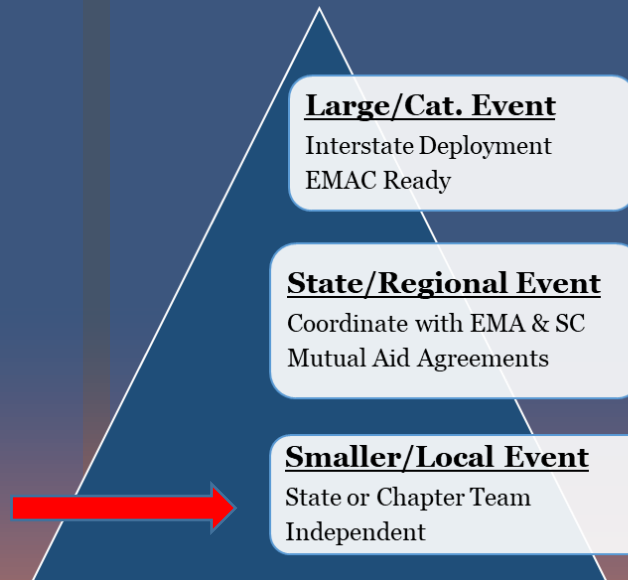
9. Pre-packaged Mission-Ready Packages for interstate response (EMAC).



# Base of the DART Pyramid

## State or Chapter Teams

(examples = Illinois and Oklahoma)



- ❖ No formal state or federal administrative process.
- ❖ Administered by the Chapter.
- ❖ Volunteers and host community sign individual liability waivers.
- ❖ A chapter or state team coordinator does logistical work.
- ❖ State Coordinator plays a large role.
- ❖ No reimbursement expected.
- ❖ Fast. Efficient. Effective!

# Middle of the DART Pyramid

## State EMA Coordination

(example = Florida)

**REQUEST ASSISTANCE**

The Florida Division of Emergency Management manages the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) signed by all 67 counties (sec. 252.40(1), Florida Statutes). SMAA is an interagency agreement developed to enable communities statewide (typically those outside of impacted areas) to provide resources that will aid the recovery of other communities adversely affected by storms and flooding. Mutual aid agreements and memoranda of understanding are essential components of emergency management planning, response and recovery operations. These agreements provide a vehicle for reciprocal emergency aid and assistance during and following emergencies and disasters, increasing available resources and improve response and recovery efforts.

The SMAA enables communities to submit written requests for mutual aid directly to another community or through the FDEM. Regardless how the request is submitted, it must be made through and coordinated with the county emergency management agency. When a request is initially submitted, the assisting party assumes the up-front costs, and the requesting party is responsible for reimbursing those costs. Submitting through FDEM allows FDEM to request reimbursement by FEMA when events are declared major disasters by the President.

**RESOURCE:**  
[https://www.floridadisaster.org/contentassets/d1db0a0bc904d97ac0ab17\\_73e8e784a/2018-form-3-final.pdf](https://www.floridadisaster.org/contentassets/d1db0a0bc904d97ac0ab17_73e8e784a/2018-form-3-final.pdf)

Ask your community's Emergency Manager to help you review the SMAA to understand how you can use it to request and provide assistance.

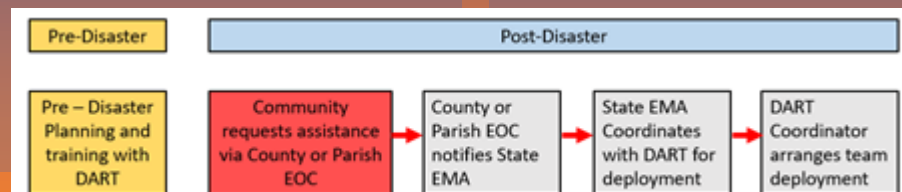
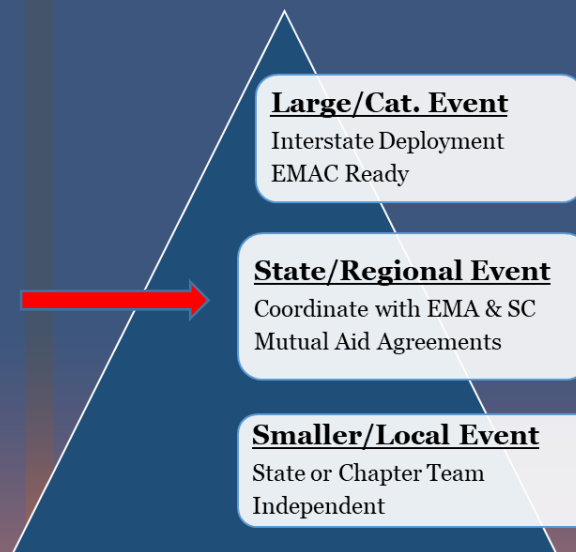
**Information Flow**

**SMAA**  
Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Requesting Party  
County Emergency Management Agency  
State Emergency Management Agency  
Assisting Party

Working with county emergency management agencies, communities use a specific form (on the next page) and spreadsheet to identify types of assistance and estimate costs. Types of assistance can range from staff support to equipment and materials (but not commodities). Following the formal process and using specific SMAA forms is important, otherwise assisting parties may lose the opportunity for federal disaster reimbursement or may lack proper documentation for reimbursement by the requesting party.

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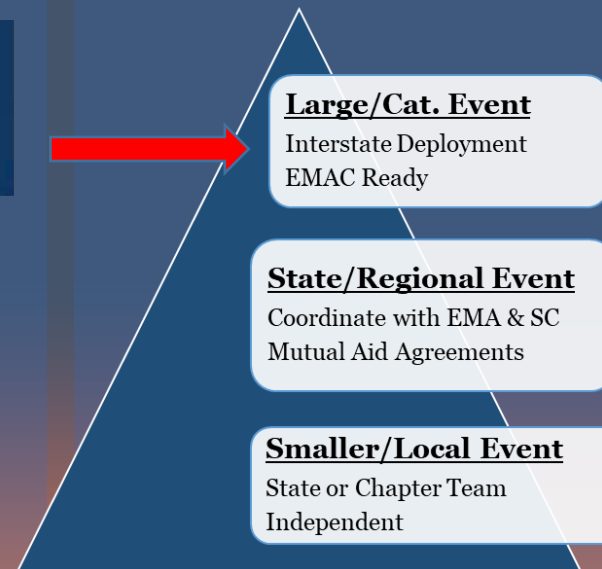


- DART assistance is formally requested through the County or Parish EMA.
- County or Parish EMA then contacts the State EMA to coordinate community assistance.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the DART and the State EMA is required.
- Reimbursement, liability, and other concerns are addressed in the State MOU.
- Potential for reimbursement with federal declaration using PA (DRAA 1206).

# Top of the DART Pyramid

## National Response Teams and EMAC

(example = Louisiana)



- Using Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).
- Enables sharing of services, personnel, equipment, and commodities.
- No federal declaration required for EMAC.
- All 50 states are members of EMAC.
- Reimbursement and liability issues covered by EMAC agreement.
- Detailed Mission Ready Package (MRP) required.
- ASFPM developing a template package for DARTs.
- Uniformity and training are key!

# State Mutual Aid Legislation Varies Widely



- Opt-out vs Opt-in programs?
- Limited to first responders or health care workers?
- Are State EMAs aware of FP regulations and sub dam?
- Should all DART activities be coordinated with state EMAs?

- Statewide Opt-Out
- Statewide Opt-in
- Individual Compacts
- No Known Program

## Portal:

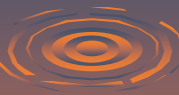
[https://geo.stantec.com/National BCAT Portal/viewer/](https://geo.stantec.com/National%20BCAT%20Portal/viewer/)

## Fact Sheets:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat/fact-sheets>

# Training and DART Development

- National Consistency. Uniformity is the key to a successful national program.
- ASFPM working with FEMA, EMI, and NEMA to develop uniform substantial damage , SDE, PA (1206), and EMAC training program for DARTs.
- ASFPM will provide training for DART Coordinators (team logistics and consistency).
- States will coordinate teams independently.
- ASFPM will coordinate national program and EMAC response.
- Training needs and a DART website link.



## The Dreaded “L” Word Are There Liability Risks?

- ❖ All DART volunteers sign a liability waiver.
- ❖ All host communities sign a liability waiver.
- ❖ Existing state and federal mutual aid programs also provide additional liability protection.
- ❖ Nearly all states have liability protection!

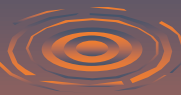
## What About Costs?

DART members are all volunteers. Unless pre-arranged or established through state mutual aid laws, per diem and travel are not reimbursed..

Some states have established in-state reimbursement programs via MOUs.

## How About Reimbursement?

During larger disaster declarations or Federal declarations, existing reimbursement frameworks (such as FEMA Public Assistance/Section 1206, or EMAC) are available to reimburse travel and deployment costs if needed.



# So, What's Next?



Graphic: Louisiana Chapter Team

- ❖ DART playbook and guidance.
- ❖ Website for DART (the Dartboard).
- ❖ Templates, tools, and examples.
- ❖ Uniform training and logistics.
- ❖ Partnership with National Emergency Management Association.
- ❖ Join EMAC committee and develop Mission Ready Packages.
- ❖ Coordinate DART activities to ensure recognition and reimbursement.
- ❖ Develop pilot program with 8 states.



# Thank you

Questions? Concerns? Suggestions?  
Contact ASFPM!



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