Floodplain Managers Helping Floodplain Managers

Every year, catastrophic flooding occurs somewhere in the United States. After a large-scale event, there can be many damaged structures, and local floodplain managers can be overwhelmed. ASFPM is here to help.

The purpose of a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is to assist communities handle floodplain management responsibilities after a natural disaster. DART members are all skilled floodplain managers representing many sectors. DART members have disaster response experience and are fully trained. The DART can assist the local floodplain manager by conducting flood damage reconnaissance, high-water mark data collection, substantial damage estimates, training, and guidance on mitigation actions. The intent of the DART is to help communities expedite response and recovery tasks immediately after the disaster.

Several ASFPM state chapters have already organized disaster assistance teams. These in-state teams have responded quickly and have performed exceedingly well. For that reason, ASFPM is committed to developing and training dedicated teams of skilled floodplain managers in each chapter. The ASFPM chapter DARTs will work in partnership with the local sponsor, state staff, and any other organizations to provide assistance. There is no cost to the local community for this service.

MORE QUESTIONS?
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QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Q: What is DART?
A: DART is the Disaster Assistance Response Team. Members of DART are all active in ASFPM or its state chapters. They represent local, state, and federal government, the private sector, and other professional disciplines. DART members all have experience and training in doing damage assessments and other post-flood responsibilities.

Q: What is the purpose of DART?
A: Often, local floodplain managers are overwhelmed following a flood. ASFPM and its state chapters have established a program to provide these flood experts free-of-charge to local officials following a disaster. The primary purpose is to help communities quickly recover and mitigate risks.

Q: Who can belong to DART?
A: DART volunteers must be pre-approved by ASFPM chapters. They must have the experience and training completed to assist the host community. Volunteers provide their own equipment.

Q: Are there liability risks?
A: No. All DART volunteers sign a liability waiver. Host communities also sign a liability waiver. Existing state and federal mutual aid programs provide additional liability protection.

Q: Will DART cost my communities?
A: No. DART members are all volunteers who have agreed to assist other communities in times of need. Unless pre-arranged, per diem and travel are not reimbursed by ASFPM or state chapters. During larger presidential disaster declarations, interstate reimbursement frameworks (such as EMAC) will cover travel and deployment costs.

Q: Who will be in charge of the DART?
A: The host community will have overall management of the DART. Volunteers work under state and local direction. ASFPM and ASFPM chapters will manage logistics and training needs.

Q: How long can I expect DART volunteers to help?
A: ASFPM estimates that in most cases, DART volunteers can complete damage assessments in a day or two. If longer deployments and overnight lodging are required, it must be pre-arranged with the host community and may have the potential to be reimbursed.