



Plan and Prepare for Disasters

HUD Disaster Guidance/Resources – quick reference

[Multifamily Housing Guidance for Disaster Recovery](#)

HUD provides background and up-to-date guidance on HUD's policy and procedure regarding disaster recovery efforts by the Office of Multifamily Housing Programs after a Presidentially-Declared Disaster (PDD).

[HUD's Disaster Resources](#)

HUD provides a variety of disaster resources. They also partner with Federal and State agencies to help implement disaster recovery assistance.

[HUD Memorandum](#) issued July 20, 2007

HUD memorandum issued 07/20/07 that provides additional guidance and clarification regarding Presidentially-Declared Disasters.

Tips for Property Managers

- Create a Plan that best suits the property requirements by measuring risks that are based on priorities, probability, and consequence. **FEMA** - <https://www.fema.gov/threat-and-hazard-identification-and-risk-assessment>
- Be planned in advance and provide quality services in the time required. Reach out to your local resources for advance planning. All organizations involved in disaster housing must build their own capabilities, be aware of what support is available should they require assistance, and know how to request assistance.
- Would your tenants/residents know what to do in an emergency? Have an excellent communication system in place. Most people prefer to receive text alerts when a problem arises, but this isn't always possible so plan several methods of communication so that tenants can't miss the signal to evacuate or take other precautions. Identify Local Emergency Management Contacts.
- Establish and identify all locations of emergency kits, evacuation routes and shelter locations. For multi-story buildings, you may want to discuss group safety plans with your tenants.
- Have regular inspections of the property to guarantee habitability and provide ongoing maintenance services to ensure all major property features remain in working order.



- Recruit your local Fire Department to teach tenants and staff the proper use of fire extinguishers and to review evacuation protocols on an annual basis. Activate the property's emergency lighting regularly to make sure the bulbs and sensors are in working order.
- Power outages are common and should be prepared with items like battery powered radios, generators, and other supportive equipment for such events. Generators are vital for the health of residents who may rely on refrigerated medication or other medical equipment for their health and safety.
- Tenants/Residents should know what will happen after an evacuation order is issued and who to contact about next steps. The property manager, or whoever is in charge, needs to distribute news via their website, newsletters, social media, or some other vehicle so that tenants/residents are aware of the situation in their building. Also pre-determine alternate meeting places so tenant/residents know where to get in contact with management.
- Mobilize Resources: After a disaster hits a building, mobilize specialized resources to properly mitigate damage and start a safe and healthy path to recover. Depending on the type of disaster, these resources could include professional technicians with water pumps, power generators, dehumidifiers, disinfection equipment, moisture monitors and mold detectors.
- Management should have a professional restoration provider on speed dial who will arrive immediately, assess the situation and enact an emergency mitigation plan. The sooner this process begins, the sooner tenants/residents can move back in.

"Helpful" Emergency and Preparedness Web Links

- Make a Plan:** <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- Individuals with Disabilities:** <https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>
- Seniors:** <https://www.ready.gov/seniors>
- Military:** <https://www.ready.gov/considerations/military-family-preparedness>
- Pets and Animals:** <https://www.ready.gov/animals>
- Plan to Evacuate:** <https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family>
- DisasterAssistance.gov:** <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>