

# NEWS RELEASE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Date  
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Name

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### **Preliminary Damage Assessments Underway for December Storm**

***State and Federal officials will determine if Federal Disaster Declaration is warranted***

**Location, Ore – Agency**, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are working on Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) following severe weather events produced by the December Winter Storm.

The damage assessments are for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in those areas hardest hit by high wind, landslides, mudslides, flooding, and erosion in December.

Teams comprised of staff from OEM, FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and local governmental representatives will conduct the PDAs and assess the impact and magnitude of damage while determining unmet needs of individuals, businesses and the community as a whole.

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The reports are also used by federal officials to determine whether aid is warranted. Public Assistance damage assessments are scheduled for Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill counties. These assessments are set to run the week of Jan. 11-15.

If granted, the Public Assistance program provides federal funds to help eligible local, state and tribal governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations to pay for eligible debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged facilities.

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The Individual Assistance PDAs will also be completed the week of Jan. 11-15 for Lane, Lincoln, Clackamas, Columbia, Tillamook and Multnomah counties. These state and FEMA assessments may be expanded to include other counties if deemed appropriate.

If granted under a major disaster declaration, the Individual Assistance program provides federal grants to eligible individuals and families to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs not covered by insurance, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, and medical, dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other serious disaster-related expenses. As a part of the declaration, the SBA makes low interest loans available to those eligible.

Information about FEMA's disaster assistance programs can be found at [www.fema.gov/disaster-process-disaster-aid-programs](http://www.fema.gov/disaster-process-disaster-aid-programs); or [public.info@state.or.us](mailto:public.info@state.or.us).

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