Chapter 10: Environmental and Historic Preservation

All federally funded projects are required to undergo a review process to assess potential impacts and compliance with applicable federal laws, regulations, and executive orders (EOs). This chapter is designed to inform applicants on the requirements and expectations of the environmental and historic preservation (EHP) compliance review process to ensure smooth communication and efficient progress throughout the PA Grant Lifecycle.

I. EHP Compliance

PA funded projects must comply with FEMA Directive 108-1, Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements.[433] Additionally these projects must comply with all applicable EHP laws, implementing regulations, and EOs and address adverse impacts to environmental and historic resources through avoidance, minimization, or compensatory measures. These EHP requirements aim to protect various resources such as water, air, coastal areas, wildlife, land, agriculture, historic facilities, cultural resources, and minimize adverse effects on low-income and minority populations. When PA provides funding to applicants, these grants must comply with laws and regulations designed to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources. A greensheet is a tool, prepared by EHP at the beginning of each declaration, which discusses EHP information specific to the disaster declaration designated area(s).

EHP specialists assist applicants by providing technical expertise throughout the PA Program delivery process. They inform applicants of the legal requirements associated with their grant funding, such as:

- Acquisition of permits and letters of exemption;
- Contact information for local, state, and federal regulatory agencies; and,
- Simplified guidance on how to understand and meet any project-specific conditions of the record of environmental consideration (REC).

Applicants play a critical role in the EHP review by communicating any concerns and questions to the assigned PA and EHP specialist teams early and often. By providing complete and accurate information and addressing any potential changes to the scope of work, applicants can facilitate the project compliance review and reduce the amount of time for project obligation.

Terminology

A **record of environmental consideration (REC)** is a FEMA administrative document that records the application of a categorical exclusion (CATEX) or statutory exclusion (STATEX) to a specific proposed action (scope of work) and captures the compliance determinations made for all applicable EHP laws

[433] For more information refer to: *EHP Directive & Instruction (FEMA Directive 108-1 & Instruction 108-1-1).*

and EOs. The REC is also used to convey any conditions for compliance that have been placed on the project.

A. EHP Compliance Review

FEMA's goal is to assist applicants in their efforts to recover from a devastating incident and ensure all recovery work protects resources and minimizes adverse effects. To accomplish this, all PA funded projects are required to undergo an EHP review. EHP specialists need information about the work to determine what requirements apply to a project to complete the review. EHP specialists review an applicant's scope of work (SOW) and supporting documentation to understand what the applicant proposes to do, the locations of the work including equipment and material staging locations, and what natural or cultural resources may be impacted. See Chapter 9: Scoping, Costing, and Final Reviews for more information on how to create a complete SOW which includes all the necessary details for EHP to complete their review. During the review, EHP evaluates the potential impacts of the project on the natural and built environment. The findings are documented in a REC which is included in every project. An EHP specialist will inform the applicant of any consultation(s) with regulatory agencies needed and all project-specific compliance conditions.

For completed or partially completed work, applicants are required to provide all documentation and evidence to demonstrate compliance with any project-specific conditions. Documentation associated with the EHP review process may include items such as permits, certification of compliance with applicable conditions, post-construction surveys, etc. See Chapter 12: Final Reconciliation and Closeout for more information.

EHP review timeframes can vary depending on the complexity of the scope of work, resources affected, public notice requirements, and consultation with regulatory agencies.[434]

1. REQUIRED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

FEMA requires the applicant to provide information about the scope of work to support the EHP review. Applicants can support a smooth review process by providing the following commonly triggered information and documentation requirements during the project formulation process:

- Physical address, if applicable, and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates for specific work sites (e.g., equipment and material staging locations, ground disturbance locations, material fill source locations);
- Dimensions of all ground disturbance (area: length, width, and depth);
- Repair or restoration details (including type and quantity of materials, equipment, and supplies used);
- Original date of facility construction and subsequent renovations;
- Equipment and materials staging information;
- Temporary and final disposal site information for debris;

[434] For more information, refer to: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation | fema.gov.

- Timeframe of work performed;
- Source of fill material;
- Maps or photographs to support the SOW;
- Plans, drawings, and/or blueprints to explain the SOW;
- Studies and surveys, if requested; and,
- Applicable permits, authorizations, and correspondence with regulatory agencies.

FEMA generates a request for information (RFI) for clarification or additional documentation if more information is needed to support EHP compliance review. See the Requests for Information section in Chapter 2 to learn more about the RFI Process.

B. Projects that Qualify for Streamlined EHP Review

All projects are subject to an EHP compliance review, however the timeframes for this review vary depending on the type of project. FEMA EHP collaborates closely with regulatory partners to create streamlined procedures and processes, such as programmatic agreements or consultations. These programmatic documents contain predetermined compliance decisions based on reviews that assess the potential impacts of projects or actions that are carried out repeatedly and are likely to have similar effects that can be assessed on a broader scale. These tools enable EHP specialists to make compliance determinations quickly, without the need for consultations with various multiple parties or regulatory agencies.



Examples: PA Projects that Qualify for Streamlined EHP Review

- Projects intended to restore the facility back to pre-disaster condition using in-kind or like materials;
- Projects with codes and standards upgrades;
- Projects involving replacement of contents, supplies, or equipment; and,
- Projects with minor repair, restoration, or construction on buildings or structures less than 45 years old and that are not listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

C. Projects Requiring Complex EHP Review

Projects that have potential for impacts to natural and cultural resources will require more detailed information and longer compliance review time. These types of projects often require consultations or coordination with other resources or regulatory agencies, including:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);[435]
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);[436]
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);[437]

[435] For more information, refer to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) | fws.gov.
[436] For more information, refer to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | epa.gov.
[437] For more information, refer to: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | noaa.gov.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE);[438]
- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO);[439]
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO);[440] and,
- Other applicable local, state, and territorial regulatory agencies.

Regulatory agencies have the authority to evaluate and approve projects through consultations or permitting decisions. When a project requires FEMA to consult with a regulatory agency, the estimated timelines are established by the responsible regulatory federal, state, and Tribal Nation resource agencies. See the Understanding EHP Laws and Executive Orders in this chapter for more information.



Examples: Projects with the Potential to Impact Natural and Cultural Resources

Examples of projects with the potential to impact natural and cultural resources include:

- New construction or changes in the location, footprint, or size of a facility;
- An increase in the size, alignment, or location of a road, bridge, or culvert;
- Hazard mitigation and codes and standards upgrades;
- Work affecting buildings, structures, sites, objects, or districts that are 45 years or older, historic landmarks of any age, and any work resulting in soil movement or change to the pre-disaster footprint;
- Work near or within a special flood hazard area (regulatory floodway or the 1% annual chance floodplain zone (100-year), or, for critical actions, in the 0.2% annual chance floodplain zone (500-year);[441]
- Work in or near environmentally sensitive areas such as barrier islands, conservation easements, fish hatcheries, preserves, state and national parks, and wildlife management areas;
- Work in or near beaches, canals, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, or other bodies of water including fishing piers;
- Staging and disposal (or recycling) of debris including, but not limited to, vegetative, construction and demolition (C&D), and hazardous materials as a result of either the disaster event or the project work; and,

Projects requiring complex EHP review are broken out by PA project type in the paragraphs below.

[438] For more information, refer to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | USACE.army.mil.
[439] For more information, refer to: State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) | nps.gov.
[440] For more information, refer to: Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) | nps.gov.
[441] For more information, refer to: Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection.

1. EMERGENCY WORK (CATEGORIES A AND B)

While FEMA's statutory exclusions under Section 316 of the Stafford Act exempt most emergency actions from review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), compliance with other laws, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the State Solid Waste Laws, the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 13112 (Invasive Species), is still required.

2. DEBRIS REMOVAL (CATEGORY A)

Although debris removal is usually statutorily excluded from the NEPA review, FEMA must ensure compliance with other EHP-related federal laws, regulations, and EOs prior to funding the work. Accordingly, FEMA must ensure that the applicant's debris removal operations avoid impacts to such resources as floodplains, wetlands, federally listed threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats, and historic properties (including maritime or underwater archaeological resources if waterways are impacted). Additionally, debris removal operations must avoid impacts that contribute to hazardous gas release and water supply contamination. Applicants must ensure they follow conditions established by state, local, Tribal Nation, and territorial authorities and must stage debris at a safe distance from property boundaries, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, structures, wells, and septic tanks with leach fields. Additional coordination may be necessary for debris removal from waterways, stump removal, and use of fill.

Applicants are responsible for permits and compliance with federal, state, Tribal Nation, and territorial requirements. The applicant needs to work with the disaster EHP staff to gain clarity on compliance requirements and permits for debris-related operations. Upon completion of debris removal, recycling, and disposal, site remediation may be necessary at staging sites and other impacted areas.

3. EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES (CATEGORY B)

Although emergency protective measures are usually statutorily excluded from NEPA review, FEMA must ensure compliance with other EHP-related federal laws, regulations, and EOs prior to funding the work. Accordingly, FEMA must ensure that the applicant's emergency protective measures, where possible: 1) avoid impacts to resources such as federally listed threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats, and historic properties; and 2) consider impacts to and from floodplains and wetlands.

For emergency work that occurs in or near impacted areas that have natural and cultural resources, FEMA encourages applicants to coordinate prior to conducting work to front-load any applicable EHP considerations in a timely manner. For work that is complete at the time the project application is submitted to FEMA, documentation is still needed to facilitate the EHP review of emergency work projects and to demonstrate EHP compliance even if it is after-the-fact. See Chapter 12: Final Reconciliation and Closeout for more information.



Examples: Emergency Work Projects that have the Potential to Impact EHP Resources

Examples of emergency work projects that have the potential to impact EHP resources include:

- Burning of debris;

- Debris removal from waterways and shorelines;
- Mold remediation;
- Mosquito abatement;
- Construction of temporary access roads, levees, and emergency berms;
- Demolition of unsafe structures;
- Purchase or construction of temporary facilities for essential community services; and,
- Temporary actions in coastal areas.

4. PERMANENT WORK (CATEGORIES C-G)

Permanent work projects that involve changes in location, footprint, alignment, or size of a facility or that occur in or affect natural and cultural resources often require a more intensive EHP review and trigger more compliance requirements. These projects often include alternate or improved projects, projects that involve significant changes to the pre-disaster configuration or the relocation of a facility, projects that incorporate codes and standards upgrades, or projects that incorporate hazard mitigation. It is important to understand EHP requirements for these types of permanent work projects.



Examples: Permanent Work Projects that have the Potential to Impact EHP Resources

Examples of permanent work projects that have the potential to impact EHP resources include:

- Upsizing culverts and redesigning water conveyance structures;
- Replacing or relocating of a bridge;
- Modifying to the interior or exterior of a historic building;
- Reconstructing of a waterfront boardwalk or pier;
- Relocating and/or burying utility lines;
- Beach renourishment projects;
- The relocation of facilities to undisturbed areas;
- Repairs to substantially damaged structures within the floodplain; and,
- New structures or facilities.

i. Disposition of Original Facility

For alternate and alternative procedures projects, if the applicant does not repair, replace, or sell the damaged facility for which the capped project funding was based, and that facility is unsafe if not repaired, the applicant must render the facility safe and secure (e.g., by restricting access, locking doors and windows,

constructing a fence around the property) or demolish it and provide the necessary assurances to document compliance with special requirements.[442]

If an applicant receives funds for salvaged components of the facility, FEMA adjusts the capped project funding by the value or anticipated fair market value of salvaged materials less the estimated costs necessary to demolish the facility, grade the site, or make the facility safe and secure.

For any work proposed by an applicant using PA funds at the original site, such as making the damaged facility safe and secure or demolishing it, FEMA must conduct EHP compliance review. When no PA funding is used for work proposed at the original site, FEMA will require the applicant, as a condition of the grant funding for alternate and alternative procedure projects, to coordinate with necessary agencies including the state historic preservation officer or tribal historic preservation officer (SHPO/THPO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to determine if the proposed work will adversely affect any historic properties and/or natural resources, and consider any measures recommended by the agencies to avoid, minimize, treat, or otherwise address adverse effects identified. The applicant must provide FEMA with documentation of its coordination with the agencies, and any agreed upon measures to address adverse effects. The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with said coordination and agreed upon measures unless they are directly related to the restoration of disaster-related damage. See Appendix D: Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance for a description of common EHP laws, regulations, and executive orders (EOs).

If an applicant opts to keep a damaged facility for a later use, the facility is eligible for PA funding in future incidents, provided the applicant repaired the facility in accordance with current codes and standards, and completed any mitigation measures, or other requirements that FEMA included in the original SOW prior to the incident. The applicant must also maintain and obtain insurance according to the requirement placed on the original project.

D. Navigating the EHP Compliance Process

While FEMA EHP provides technical assistance and guidance to applicants in each step of the application process, there are some things applicants can do to help ensure a timely and efficient EHP review. Below are some guidelines to help applicants navigate the EHP compliance process:

- Provide detailed information for assessing potential impacts, including a complete and clear scope of work to minimize requests for clarification and information.
- Provide maps or sketches of work details, photographs, site plans, and area descriptions of pre-disaster conditions and proposed or completed work to reduce requests for information from EHP.
- Obtain any necessary permits and/or authorizations prior to construction.
- Provide any pre-existing permits and/or authorizations. FEMA may be able to expedite the EHP compliance review based upon existing and applicable permit and/or authorization documentation.

[442] 44 C.F.R. § 206.203.

- Document and keep copies of any correspondence with federal or state agencies regarding permits and/or authorizations. Attach those copies to the grant application.
- Adhere to permit and/or authorization conditions for implementing work and utilize identified best management practices as specified by regulatory agencies. Verify conditions were met if work is completed.

E. Understanding EHP Laws and Executive Orders

The most commonly encountered federal laws FEMA reviews for EHP compliance include: the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11990 Wetlands Protection, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and the Clean Water Act (CWA). More information about these laws is provided in the sections below.

Depending on the project location and type of work, compliance with other laws, such as the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or the Marine Mammal Protection Act may be required. See Appendix D: Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance for descriptions of additional EHP laws and Executive Orders (EOs) that are not covered in this section.

1. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The purpose of NEPA is to ensure that environmental factors are weighted equally when compared to other factors in the decision-making process undertaken by federal agencies. NEPA requires that the effects of proposed actions and alternatives on the human environment be shared with the public and considered by an agency before deciding on the proposed action. The human environment includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people within that environment.

EHP considers the statutory necessity and likelihood of environmental consequences of a proposed action or connected actions when determining the appropriate level of NEPA review:

- **Statutory exclusion (STATEX)** means the work (proposed action) is exempt from NEPA review because actions covered by STATEX are required in the aftermath of a disaster to return facilities to their pre-disaster condition and therefore have little or no impact on the environment.
- **Categorical exclusion (CATEX)** is a form of NEPA compliance that applies to actions that do not need to undergo a detailed NEPA review because the agency has evaluated and demonstrated that these types of work (actions) do not normally have the potential to have a significant effect upon the environment. Moreover, CATEXs are applied to projects that have no extraordinary circumstances present, which would require a more detailed NEPA review (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement).
- **Environmental assessments** are prepared for projects that do not fall under a STATEX or CATEX and when it is unlikely or unknown whether the proposed project would cause significant environmental and/or historic impacts. This is a more detailed examination of the project and requires an evaluation of alternatives and public involvement component. Environmental assessments can result in the following:
    - A **finding of no significant impact** means the action will not have significant impacts and is not highly controversial in terms of environmental impacts.

- A **notice of intent (NOI)** to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) means that the action may have significant impacts or controversy in terms of environmental impacts, and an EIS that results in a record of decision should be prepared.

- **Environmental impact statement (EIS)** examines a major federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human and natural environment. It is a detailed impact study that requires extensive agency and public coordination.

2. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Emergency protective measures, debris removal, and permanent work to repair, restore, or replace disaster-damaged facilities may impact historic properties, including buildings, structures, sites, including archaeological resources, objects, and districts. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)[443] requires FEMA to assess if PA-eligible work will affect such properties and consult with the state historic preservation officer (SHPO) and/or tribal historic preservation officer (THPO), and other consulting parties, including the applicant and recipient, to resolve any adverse effects to identified properties through avoidance, minimization, or compensation measures. Through the execution of programmatic agreements with the SHPO/THPO and recipient, FEMA ensures streamlining of the Section 106 compliance process while integrating historic preservation considerations into the formulation and implementation of PA projects.

3. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the federal government (including FEMA) has the responsibility to protect endangered species (species that are likely to become extinct throughout all or a large portion of their range), threatened species (species that are likely to become endangered in the near future) and critical habitat (areas vital to the survival of endangered or threatened species). Under Section 7 of the ESA, all federal agencies including FEMA are required to review their actions or funded actions, including PA projects, for potential effects to federally-listed species or critical habitat. If FEMA determines there will be an effect to species or their critical habitat, they must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service on that action. The consultation may be informal or formal depending on the level of effects to species or critical habitat. Consultation may result in the application of project-specific conditions such as timing restrictions or construction best practices that an applicant must follow in order to be compliant with the ESA.[444]

4. EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11988 & 11990: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND WETLANDS PROTECTION

FEMA actions, including PA projects, must conform to 44 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 9, which incorporates the requirements of EO 11988, as amended, and EO 11990. Applicants must review all proposed actions to determine whether they are in the floodplain or wetland. In accordance with EO 11988, as amended, and EO 11990, FEMA must complete an 8-step decision-making process for proposed actions located in the floodplain or wetland, as well as proposed actions that have the potential to affect or be

[443] For more information, refer to: National Historic Preservation Act | fema.gov.
[444] For more information, refer to Endangered Species Act | fws.gov.

affected by a floodplain or wetland. The applicable floodplain for the action is determined by the type and criticality of the action.

As part of the eight-step decision-making process, FEMA must consider alternative locations and actions, to determine whether the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable location for that action. Applicants should document alternatives considered as part of their application process to assist FEMA in facilitating this decision-making process. If the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable location, applicants must avoid or must minimize adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetland and also be in compliance with any more restrictive federal, state, or local floodplain management standards.[445]

See the Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements section in Chapter 8 for more information.

5. COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES ACT

In accordance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA), FEMA may assist projects in otherwise protected areas if they do not require flood insurance after project completion.[446] The CBRA designates relatively undeveloped land along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) that are ineligible for most new federal assistance. Projects in a John H. Chafee CBRS unit are eligible only if they qualify for one of the exceptions in Section 6 of the CBRA[447] and comply with FEMA's CBRA regulations that provide further information on the restrictions for funding specific to disaster recovery.[448]



Terminology

Otherwise, protected areas consist of conservation or recreation areas such as national wildlife refuges, state and national parks, local conservation areas, and private conservation areas, although they may also contain private areas that are not for conservation.

All projects that occur in or adjacent to CBRS units must meet one of the CBRA exceptions and require that FEMA consult with the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services field office.

Proposed actions carried out within or adjacent to an "otherwise protected area" do not require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6. CLEAN WATER ACT

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and regulating the quality of surface waters. Together with the Rivers and

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[445] 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d).
[446] Congress reauthorized the Coastal Barrier Resources Act with the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-591 [Nov. 16, 1990], expanding the CBRS to include undeveloped costal barriers along the Florida Keys, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It also added a new category of undeveloped barriers called Otherwise Protected Areas.
[447] 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 3505.
[448] 44 C.F.R. § 206 Subpart J.

Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899, the CWA helps define the federal government's jurisdiction over, and approach to, managing waters under its jurisdiction. These laws give the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other agencies permitting authority over certain activities affecting "navigable waters of the United States" subject to federal jurisdiction under the RHA and "navigable waters" subject to federal jurisdiction under the CWA, which are defined as "waters of the United States."

It is the responsibility of an applicant to obtain any required CWA Section 401 water quality certification and CWA Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits whenever there is the work in waterways or the potential for discharge of wastewater pollutants (including sediment) to surface waters (e.g., wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers). FEMA typically conditions grant approval upon an applicant obtaining all relevant certifications and permits required for the project.

CWA Section 404 establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into WOTUS, including wetlands. Section 404 requires that a permit be obtained before dredged or fill material may be discharged into WOTUS, unless the activity is exempt from Section 404 regulation. It is the responsibility of an applicant to obtain a Section 404 permit, declare the use of a non-reporting nationwide permit (NWP), or provide documentation that no permit is required.



Examples: Projects That Can Trigger CWA Section 404 Permitting Requirements

Examples of projects that can trigger CWA Section 404 permitting requirements include:

- Dredging wetlands or placement of fill in wetlands;
- Culvert or bridge replacements in WOTUS;
- Shoreline revetments;
- Embankment armoring;
- Repair or replacement of docks and piers; and,
- Beach renourishment.

F. Coordination with Other Federal Agencies

When multiple federal agencies are conducting, supporting (including funding), or permitting projects in the same geographic area, early coordination is essential to avoid the potential for conflicting EHP standards being applied within the same geographic area or on the same project. Accordingly, when FEMA is funding an action with or in the same area as another federal agency, FEMA will coordinate with the applicable federal agencies as early in the planning process as possible to promote streamlining of EHP compliance reviews. For example, public housing agencies (PHAs) are eligible to receive PA funding for projects involving their public housing portfolio. When public housing receives PA funding, FEMA EHP will reach out to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to coordinate on the environmental and historic preservation review process.

1. UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEW

FEMA has committed to expediting and unifying environmental reviews. The Unified Federal Review (UFR) process[449] offers additional coordination opportunities for FEMA and other federal agencies. The UFR allows for higher-level resolution in instances where agreement on a common approach reaches an impasse.

G. Partnerships and Resources

1. HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF),[450] a partnership between FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) and the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI), strives to protect state, local, Tribal Nation, and territorial (SLTT) cultural and historic resources from the damaging effects of disasters. HENTF supports the Natural & Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery Support Function (RSF) in developing recovery needs assessments by identifying issues, impacts, and unmet needs of private nonprofit cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, historical societies, city/town clerk offices, and performing arts organizations.

HENTF's 60-plus members – federal agencies and private nonprofit national service organizations – represent expertise in the arts, culture, historic preservation, emergency management, and tribal affairs. HENTF can serve as a technical assistance resource for field staff to address issues specific to applicants in the arts and culture sector, by identifying resources, advising on conservators and allied professionals, and evaluating scopes of work for treatment of objects.

HENTF actions during disaster operations include:

- Coordinating the collection and sharing of incident-specific information to support the federal response;
- Coordinating with its members, state cultural agencies, state, and regional library/archives/museum/arts associations, and SLTT cultural heritage emergency networks for situational awareness; and,
- Aiding in dissemination of PA information and updates via HENTF network to reach stakeholders at the local level.

H. Resource Links

- Environmental & Historic Preservation Grant Preparation Resources
- EHP Tools for Practitioners
- The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) | FEMA.gov

[449] For more information, refer to: Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review | fema.gov.
[450] For more information, refer to: Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) | culturalrescue.si.edu.