



Advance Measures Program

Addressing flood impacts before there's a flood

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Policy

Under the Advance Measures Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may provide assistance to non-federal governments, prior to flooding events, to protect life and property. There must be an imminent threat of unusual flooding from adverse conditions. This assistance is limited to those actions necessary to prevent or reduce impacts of floods that (1) pose a significant threat to life and/or improved property, and, (2) the proposed assistance is beyond the capability of local interests and the State to perform in a timely manner. This assistance may be technical or direct.

What is an "imminent threat of unusual flooding"?

The imminent threat of unusual flooding from adverse conditions is a subjective determination that considers the potential for flooding to approach the flood of record, a catastrophic level of flooding, or a greater than 50-year level of flooding for a given location. Adverse conditions include, but are not limited to, record level snow packs, or the potential failure of a dam. The threat must be established either by the National Weather Service (NWS) or the Corps.

Limits to Advance Measures assistance

Corps emergency and/or disaster assistance is limited to the preservation of life, and the protection of residential and commercial developments, to include public and private facilities that provide public services. Further:

- The threat must be established either by National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts or Corps determination. Some assistance may be provided if a much higher than normal threat of flooding is predicted several months in advance, but may not be definable as an "imminent threat" or "unusual flooding" (see below).
- Exclusive Direct Assistance to individual homeowners, property owners, or businesses (to include agricultural businesses), is not permitted.
- Exclusive Direct Assistance to a single public or publicly owned facility (e.g., a water treatment plant) is permitted.
- All assistance is temporary in nature, must be technically feasible, designed to deal effectively with the specific threat, and capable of construction in time to prevent projected damages.
- All projects must be economically feasible, with a favorable benefit-cost ratio (BCR) greater than 1.0 as the key factor.
- Permanent work may be considered when those costs is significantly more cost effective than a temporary solution.

Technical Assistance

This provides technical review, advice, and/or recommendations to non-federal governments before an anticipated flood event. These are examples of Technical Assistance:

- Inspecting existing flood-risk-management projects to identify potential problems and solutions.
- Providing hydraulic, hydrologic and/or geotechnical analysis.
- Providing information readily available through USACE to non-federal governments for their use in the preparation of local evacuation and/or contingency flood plans.
- Providing assistance in the preparation of contingency flood plans.
- Technical Assistance can be provided when a much higher than normal threat of flooding is predicted several months in advance, but may not be identifiable as "imminent threat" or "unusual flooding."

Direct Assistance

This includes supplies, equipment, and/or contracting for the construction of temporary and/or permanent flood control projects. Direct Assistance may only be provided as part of an approved Advance Measures project, supplemental to state and local resources.



How to request Advance Measures assistance

- Establish a threat.
 - The threat must be established either by National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts or by Corps determination of unusual flooding from adverse conditions. The threat must be such that substantial damages will be incurred if preventive/protective action is not taken prior to the forecasted event.
 - As a rule, Advance Measures funding will not be used to establish the threat. Other sources must resource that effort.
 - Technical and contingency planning assistance can be provided when a much higher than normal threat of flooding is predicted several months in advance, but may not reach the defined level of "imminent threat" or "unusual flooding."
- Consider other authorities. Other Corps authorities must also be considered. If any other standing Corps authority is applicable, then Advance Measures will not be undertaken. The authorities of state and other federal agencies will also be considered, especially if the threat involves state or federal lands (e.g., hydrophobic soils due to wildfire). Silver Jackets coordinates this effort.
- Identify state and local efforts. Advance Measures assistance is in support of state and local ongoing or planned efforts. All activities will be coordinated with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) or tribe. Non-Federal interests must commit available resources (i.e., work force, supplies, equipment, funds, National Guard forces, etc.).
- Request submission. The state submit a written request for assistance to the Commander of Walla Walla District, as noted below. The request must contain the following information:
 - A description of the state and/or local efforts undertaken.
 - A statement that the state has committed all available resources.
 - The specific location(s) and type of assistance needed (if Direct Assistance, provide a scope of work).
 - The name of the project sponsor.
 - Additional commitments to be accomplished by the state.

Who requests Advance Measures assistance

Advance Measures requests always come from the state, as follows:

- Direct Assistance requires a written request from the Governor or the tribal executive.
- Technical Assistance may be requested by the SEMA director or the tribal executive.

Actions upon receipt of request

- Potential Advance Measures projects that may emanate from such contingency planning assistance must be addressed separately, as specified in this fact sheet.
- Potential Advance Measures projects resulting from Technical Assistance must be submitted as a new request.
- Direct Assistance requests require the identification of a non-federal (public) sponsor. See "Cooperative Agreements For Direct Assistance to Non-Federal Governments During Floods."

Other information and references

These additional information resources discuss related aspects of USACE authorities. Contact Readiness Office for copies, or view/download them from our webpage <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Flood-Assistance/>.

- Requesting Emergency Assistance: Information for non-federal emergency management agencies
- Levee Rehabilitation: Repair of flood control projects damaged by flooding
- Cooperative Agreements for Direct Assistance to non-federal governments during floods
- Walla Walla District Regulatory Pocket Guide (applicable only to the State of Idaho)
- Walla Walla District Flood-Fight Handbook (available electronically only)

How to reach us

Contact Walla Walla District for assistance prior to or during a flood event. Business hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday – call 509-527-7146 or email cenww-eoc@usace.army.mil. After business hours, contact the Duty Officer at 1-509-380-4538 (to assure contact, dial all 11 digits, even within the 509 area code).

When contacting us during an emergency, please be ready to discuss your current situation, your response operations and what support you need. Our staff is also available to answer questions prior to floods.

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