



# Essential Disaster Recovery Tips

Helping Our Clients Prepare For, Respond To, and Recover From Disasters


## WHO IS HAGERTY?

Hagerty Consulting, Inc. (Hagerty) is a full-service consulting firm that helps clients prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Hagerty has supported local, tribal, state, government and private sector clients through every major disaster since 2001.


We blend exceptional management consulting skills with the industry's deepest programmatic expertise to produce innovative strategies and results for our clients.

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Effective disaster recovery is a comprehensive process that should start before disaster strikes and can help mitigate disaster impacts.

## PRE-DISASTER

- **Identify the top risks and hazards to your community.** Each disaster presents unique challenges. Make sure you are prepared for what is most likely to occur in your area.
- **Identify a Response Team.** Identify team members in charge of response and immediate recovery efforts. Ensure they have access to all file-sharing systems and all relevant websites (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Grants Portal) and have access to obtain federal and state policies and guidance that may be unique to the disaster at hand.
- **Implement annual testing of your Disaster Recovery Plan.** Make sure all information is current and that there is built-in redundancy in the event of staff turnover.

## DURING THE DISASTER

When disaster strikes, identified recovery personnel should be focused on short-term recovery goals. These activities include:

- Prioritizing life-saving efforts by first responders;
- Communicating with the public about ongoing risks as well as potential hazards and cascading impacts; and
- Pursuing the restoration of [Community Lifelines](#) and other critical infrastructure.

It is also critical to document all activities to be potentially eligible for federal reimbursement later.

## DISASTER COST-RECOVERY

The impacts from disasters can be financially devastating. Here are a few essential financial recovery tips:

- When conducting damage assessments, it is important to document all infrastructure and public facilities affected (e.g., define and photograph all locations/populations served).
- Keep all contracts, invoices, correspondence, and change orders with vendors completing repair work.
- Segregate all disaster-related activities from other work.
- Track all in-house labor and equipment usage related to the disaster.
- Review project procurement and contracts for compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements.
- File insurance claims promptly and retain claim information prior to applying for federal and/or state funding.
- Connect with state agencies that oversee disaster recovery programs to understand other funding opportunities that might be available to your community.

## POST-DISASTER

Once your community has stabilized, and short-term goals have been achieved, long-term recovery begins.



### Define Success

Meet with government and community leaders to define recovery success and establish long-term recovery goals.



### Implement Cost Recovery

Each disaster is unique and presents different funding opportunities for recovery. Document all response/recovery activities and contact your state, tribe, or territory to understand available funding. If the President issues a Major Disaster Declaration, the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program may be available to reimburse emergency and permanent work costs.



### Consider Mitigation

After a disaster, FEMA may offer mitigation opportunities under its PA program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Also, explore [other mitigation programs](#) like FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs, which allow for annual competitive applications.

To learn more about the innovative and customized solutions Hagerty can provide to your organization, contact:



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