



## FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment Process

Henderson County Employees have begun assessing damages. If a County Employee comes to your property they will have County identification. They will not need to enter your home.

Damage Assessment is the process for determining the nature and extent of the loss, suffering, and/or harm to the community resulting from a natural, accidental or human-caused disaster. The damage assessment estimates the losses and the impacts of those losses on the affected individuals and communities. A strong damage assessment supported by accurate information will:

- Identify the needs of individuals and communities affected by the disaster.
- Determine if there exist sufficient county and local resources address recovery needs or if state and federal government resources are required for successful recovery
- Identify, allocate and prioritize the state and federal resources that are needed for the response and recovery efforts.
- Document and substantiate requests for federal assistance.

### Preliminary Damage Assessment Steps

#### 1. Local Damage Assessment

FEMA provides [Digital Damage Survey](#) templates or [Street Sheets](#) to help with the collection of damage information.

Henderson County and local municipalities have begun to collect initial damage details. FEMA provides [Initial Damage Assessment Checklists](#) to guide emergency management officials through the collection of essential information.

#### 2. State or Tribal Verification

Henderson County and local municipalities will collect Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) information to determine whether or not federal assistance may be necessary.

At this time, Henderson County residents may apply for the following FEMA assistance:

- [Individual Assistance](#)
- [Public Assistance](#)
  - Apply for disaster assistance at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov), the FEMA App, or call (800) 621-3362.

If the damage is extensive enough that it exceeds the recovery capacity of a state, tribe, or territory, a formal Joint PDA may be requested.

### 3. Joint PDA Planning

A Joint PDA request has been made. FEMA has coordinated with Henderson County to discuss the information submitted, determine team requirements, establish a PDA briefing, and develop an overall PDA coordination plan.

### 4. Conducting the Joint PDA

FEMA, and potentially other Federal agencies, will conduct the joint PDA in accordance with the agreed upon PDA coordination plan. Henderson County has been granted assistance from the US National Guard.

### 5. Request for a Disaster Declaration

President Biden has granted Governor Roy Cooper’s request for a [Federal Major Disaster Declaration](#) for Tropical Storm Helene providing immediate federal help for 25 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

## The PDA Process

