

Essential Disaster Recovery Tips



WHO IS HAGERTY?

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

Since our founding in 2001, we have supported some of the nation's most impactful disaster recovery efforts, bringing expertise in federal grants management, crisis response, and preparedness strategies.

By combining deep programmatic knowledge with practical, results-driven solutions, we deliver lasting impacts that strengthen resilience for those we serve.

To learn more about the innovative solutions we can provide to your business or organization, contact:

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Effective disaster recovery is a comprehensive process that begins well before a disaster occurs. A well-crafted plan not only mitigates the impact of disasters but also accelerates and streamlines the recovery process.

Pre-Disaster: Building a Strong Recovery Foundation

Before a disaster strikes, establishing a strong foundation for a fast and effective recovery is crucial. This includes strategic planning, defining key roles and priorities, and ensuring that all necessary resources are readily available.



Develop a Recovery Plan

Create a comprehensive strategy that identifies key leaders for specific recovery areas, establishes short- and long-term recovery priorities, and outlines processes for effective communication.



Create a Cost Recovery Plan

Implement systems to track disaster-related expenses, ensuring sufficient documentation and compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements. In addition, assign personnel to manage recovery information collection and extensively document all damages prior to repairs and/or demolition.



Test and Refine Your Plan

Conduct annual exercises and trainings to ensure leadership and staff are well-versed in their roles and responsibilities throughout both the initial and long-term recovery phases.

During the Disaster: Staying Organized and Informed

When a disaster occurs, maintaining organization and communication is crucial for an efficient response and smooth transition to recovery.



Deploy a FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Advisor

Mobilize a FEMA PA expert at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to advise key personnel, ensuring informed decision-making and effective response coordination.



Mobilize Your Finance/Admin Team

Ensure trained staff are ready to report to the EOC. Their roles include gathering documentation, processing procurements, and managing emergency purchases through standby contracts. These team members must be well-versed in FEMA requirements and federal regulations ([2 CFR Section 200](#)).



Prepare to Document Everything

Designate a team to record all infrastructure damage before temporary repairs or demolitions take place.

Post-Disaster: Recovery and Reimbursement

Once your community is stabilized and immediate goals have been achieved, the focus shifts to recovery and securing reimbursement.



Define Recovery Goals

Collaborate with government and community leaders to establish recovery criteria and identify funding opportunities. If a major disaster declaration is issued, explore the FEMA PA program for possible reimbursement of emergency and permanent work costs.



Implement the Recovery Plan

Once needs are understood, begin implementing the recovery plan, including actions to de-escalate response activities and restore operations. This involves fostering collaboration across the whole community, including coordination with stakeholders, governments at all levels, and industry partners, as well as unified communication to drive redevelopment efforts and ensure recovery success.



Rebuild with Resilience

After a disaster, FEMA offers mitigation opportunities for long-term solutions, turning recovery into an opportunity to strengthen against future hazards and risks. These initiatives prioritize restoring, redeveloping, and revitalizing communities with increased resilience, ensuring they are better prepared for future challenges.

By proactively planning, staying informed during the disaster, and managing post-disaster recovery efforts carefully, you can maximize the effectiveness of your recovery strategy and ensure access to critical funding resources.

DISASTER COST RECOVERY

The impacts from disasters can be financially devastating. To help with recovery, here are some essential financial tips:

- Ensure essential administrative functions are fully staffed at the EOC to process financial information accurately and promptly.
- During damage assessments, capture detailed photographs and create thorough records of all affected areas before any repairs or demolition begins. This is essential for maintaining eligibility for FEMA reimbursement.
- Use pre-established standby contracts when possible and document all emergency purchases with justifications.
- Quantify resource and funding needs promptly, then consistently advocate for support from FEMA, state, and other federal agency representatives.