

Local Government
REIMAGINED CONFERENCE

APRIL 2-4, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

How Midwest Governments Storm-Proof Disaster Operations

Kennedy Hayes, Solutions Engineer
OpenGov

IGMA | conference

Agenda

- Hurricane Matthew Hits the County of Charleston, SC
- Waldo Canyon Fire Tears through City of Colorado Springs, CO
- Bay County, FL's Approach to Flood Management
- The Three Ways to Get Funds after a Disaster
- How to Track Assets and Activities for FEMA Reporting
- FEMA Reporting

Poll #1

If a disaster happened today would you be ready to do reporting to track damage and recoup eligible funds?

- Yes, absolutely
- No, I know we're not ready
- I'm not sure
- We're ready to do some FEMA reporting but I know we're not where we should be

Charleston County, SC

Hurricane Matthew hit Charleston County in 2018.

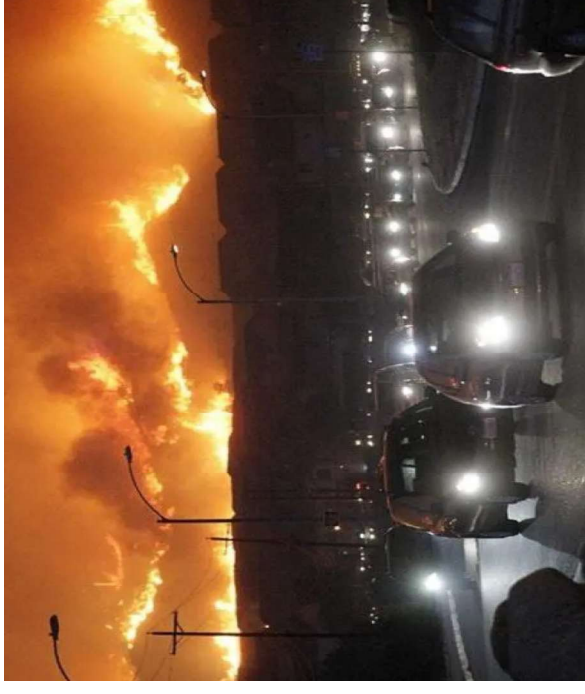
- **The damage.** At least 70 homes were undermined or damaged, and roads were covered with up to five feet of sand.
- **Reporting status.** The County submitted its final FEMA report related to the hurricane in 2022.



City of Colorado Springs, CO

The Waldo Canyon Fire tore through the City of Colorado Springs in 2012.

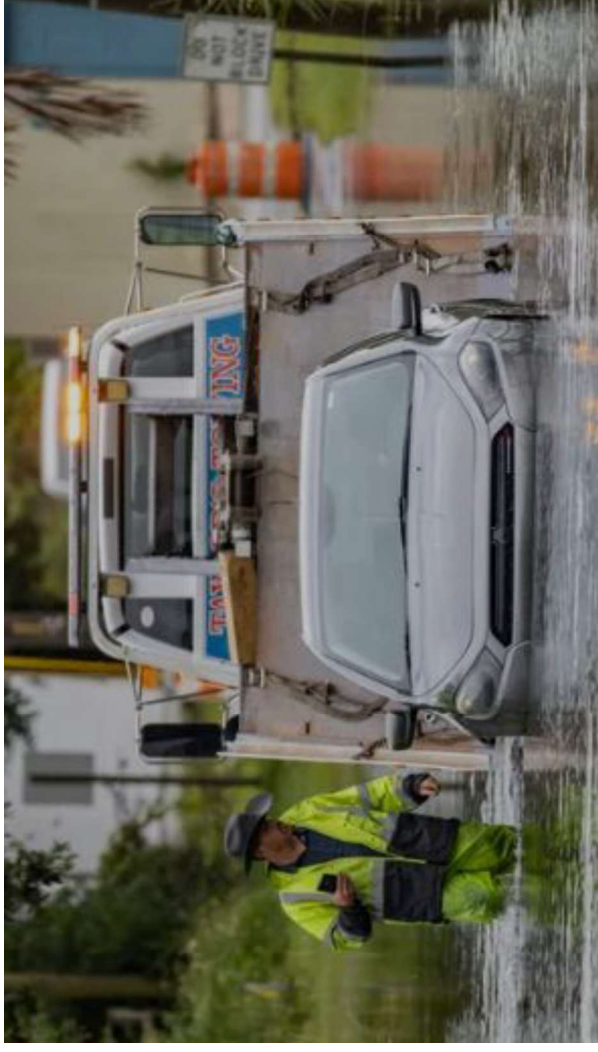
- **The damage.** The fire was so intense that the heat melted street signs and poles made of aluminum, damaging the top layer of asphalt.
- **Reporting status.** At the end of 2023, the City was just closing out its final report related to the fire.



Bay County, FL

Bay County is highly prone to flood hazards associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, and rainfall with high intensity or duration, averaging about 80 thunderstorm days each year.

- **Reporting status.** After major flood events, they can show FEMA exactly what was done: We had this many people, respond with this equipment, it took us this long, and this is what it cost.

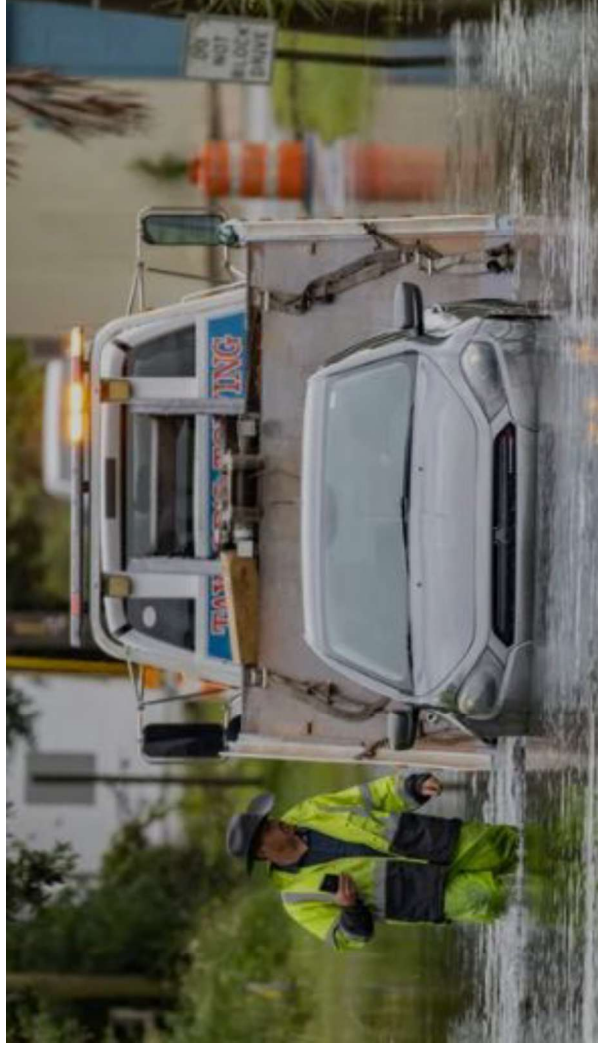


How Midwest Governments Storm-proof Disaster Operations

In a region where tornados, blizzards, and fierce storms are widespread, Midwestern governments are stepping up to safeguard their communities with a digital approach.

Examples of OpenGov customers:

- Brookfield, WI
- Cudahy, WI
- New Berlin, WI
- Savage, MN



Poll #2

How do you track your work orders right now?

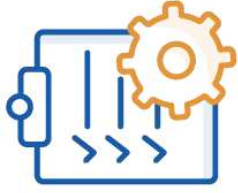
- In Excel or another type of spreadsheet
- In a digital platform
- On paper
- A combination of the above

Three Ways to Pursue Disaster Funds



Disaster Declaration

This is the most common way to pursue FEMA funds.



Pre-Disaster Fund

These are useful when projects are already on your disaster mitigation plan—but you can only apply once a year.



Hazard Mitigation Grant

These are state-level grants that are worth pursuing as alternatives or supplements to FEMA funds.

Pro tip: Use information from your Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to avoid duplicating efforts.

Tracking Assets and Activities for FEMA Reporting



Before the Event

Inventory and track asset condition, including pictures, updated condition assessments, and values, so you'll be ready to report on any damage if and when disaster strikes.



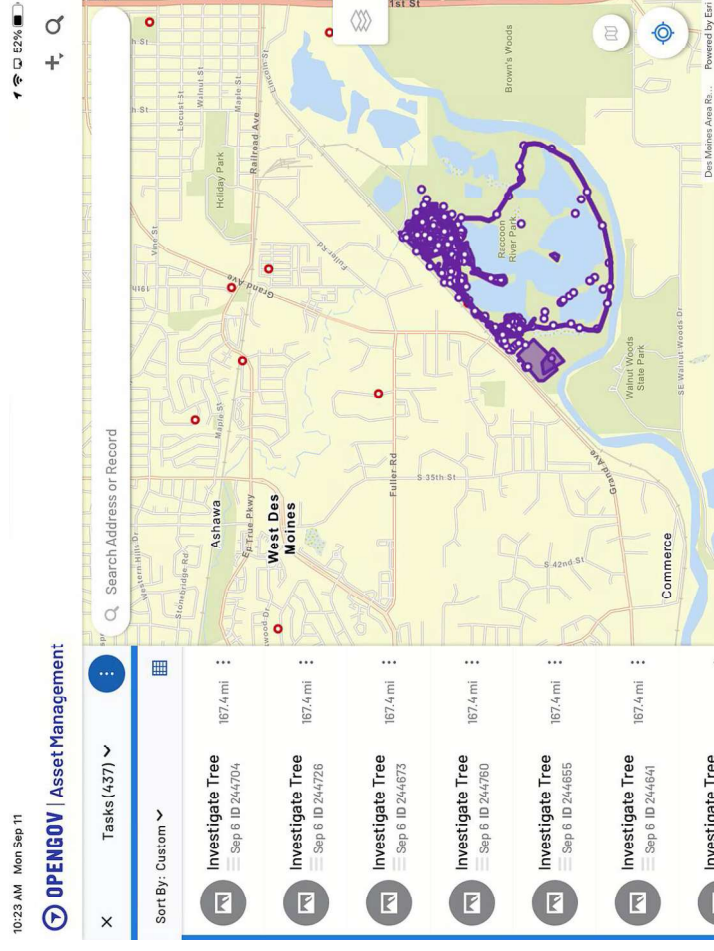
After the Event

Track tasks related to the disaster so you can account for every disaster-related expense.

Pro tip: Tie all your work orders to the same event to make it easy to do your reporting later.

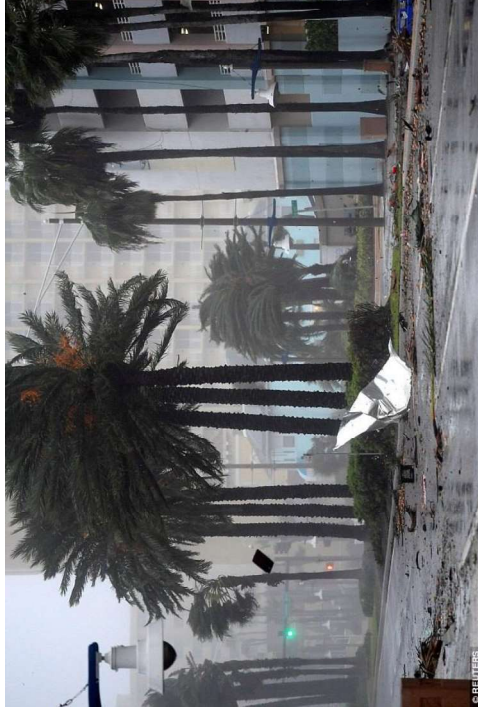
Here's what to do:

- Create a “roll-up” work order.
- Add related tasks to the work order as before, during, and after the disaster.
- Enter all costs: include labor, equipment, materials, and other/contractors.
- Submit reports: include receipts, photos, and other attachments.



FEMA Reporting Best Practices—Before the Event

- Be prepared with your labor and equipment rates.
- Activities: Storm clean up, flood clean up, ice storm
- Meet with your teams and train beforehand.
- Always remember to use FEMA rates on tasks.
- Set expectations and monitor performance.



FEMA Reporting Best Practices

- Update labor rates periodically.
- Work with your Office of Emergency Management.
- Be meticulous and take pictures—don't leave anything blank!
- Make sure to associate work with the correct person.
- Match payroll hours with your work management system.
- Consider cloud storage.
- Retain all invoices for at least 3 years.

FEMA Reporting Best Practices

Be very specific in your language.

- For debris removal, where was the debris removed, how much weight, and what type?
- Use canned responses like:
 - Scarify, grade and compact road
 - Excavate and repair erosion along slope
 - Sediment and debris removal
 - Repair storm damaged ditches
 - Remove debris and make erosion repairs

Key Takeaways

- Build an accurate database of infrastructure assets and their current condition BEFORE disaster strikes
- Be prepared to deploy response teams with mobile work orders to track cleanup, recovery activities, and expenses in real-time
- Efficiently compile data to submit FEMA claims for faster, more complete reimbursement

Q&A

IGMA | conference

Local Government
REIMAGINED CONFERENCE
APRIL 2-4, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

IGMA | conference

Local Government
REIMAGINED CONFERENCE
APRIL 2-4, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

IGMA | conference

Local Government
REIMAGINED CONFERENCE
APRIL 2-4, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

IGMA | conference

Local Government
REIMAGINED CONFERENCE
APRIL 2-4, 2025 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN