



**For Immediate Release
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Press Release:

STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS TO CONDUCT INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

JBER, Alaska – In response to the major earthquake that occurred November 30th, the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in partnership with local and tribal officials, have scheduled joint preliminary damage assessment (JPDA) for public infrastructure. The JPDA is scheduled to begin December 17, 2018. The purpose of the assessment is to gather preliminary information about the extent of infrastructure damage caused by the earthquake.

Damages to public infrastructure that were a result of the earthquake may be eligible for federal and state assistance. Potential applicants for the Public Assistance (Infrastructure) program are: state, local and tribal governments and certain private non-profits.

The JPDA will help determine if the extent and magnitude of damage will justify a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, allowing access to federal disaster recovery assistance. The goal of the JPDA is to survey a representative sample of the damages in order to determine if supplemental assistance from the federal government is warranted.

JPDA's do not guarantee a major federal disaster declaration. Rather, they are the first step in helping the Governor determine whether the scope of damage is beyond what the state is capable of handling and whether additional federal assistance is necessary. The assessments may also identify any unmet needs that may require immediate attention.

DHS&EM staff is working with the local governments to identify public assistance damages. Local and tribal governments and non-profits with damages to public infrastructure should report damages to local municipal or borough governments.

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