



FEMA

RECOVERY

FACT SHEET

9580.213

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICAL METER REPAIR

Overview

Under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and implementing regulations¹, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may direct or reimburse activities to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe. Under that authority, FEMA may fund the repair of residential electrical meters damaged in a major disaster or emergency as an emergency protective measure (Public Assistance Category B). Residential Electrical Meter Repair is intended to reduce the number of displaced disaster survivors needing shelter and allow for a faster recovery.

FEMA may provide this assistance to State, Tribal and local governments under the Public Assistance (PA) Program in the areas designated by a major disaster or emergency declaration. Reimbursement will be at the Federal cost share rate established in the Presidential declaration, which is generally 75 percent.

Funding for the repair of residential electrical meters is based on a reasonable cost for such work, but is limited to \$800 per meter. The work should be completed within 30 days from the date of issuance of the disaster declaration unless extended by the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can participate in Residential Electrical Meter Repair?

- Only State, Tribal or local governments are eligible applicants for reimbursement.
- The State, Tribal or local government must issue a finding of an immediate threat to safety due to loss of power caused by damaged meters/weather heads.
- The program must be requested by an eligible applicant and approved by the FCO.
- Only residences in a declared county are eligible.

¹ Section 403, 42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)(3)(B) and (I), of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; and 44 CFR part 206, subpart C.

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2. How will Residential Electrical Meter Repair be implemented?

Once approved by the FCO, the process is as follows:

- a. The State, Tribal or local governments will determine the locations to be included in Residential Electrical Meter Repair.
- b. The State, Tribal or local governments will obtain a signed right-of-entry (ROE) agreement from each residential property owner, or use a signed ROE obtained by FEMA for other assistance if it covers the residence and the type of work to be performed.
- c. The State, Tribal or local government will take reasonable measures to document any known insurance proceeds to prevent duplication of benefits in accordance with Section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- d. The State, Tribal or local government will contract with licensed electricians to perform the repair of the electrical meters. Applicants must comply with the Federal procurement standards in 44 CFR 13.36.
- e. The State, Tribal or local government will coordinate the work with the owner, the power company, and electricians.
- f. The State, Tribal or local government is responsible for payment of the non-federal cost share, which is generally 25 percent.
- g. The applicant will submit its claim for reimbursement in the form of a Project Worksheet through the Grantee to the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

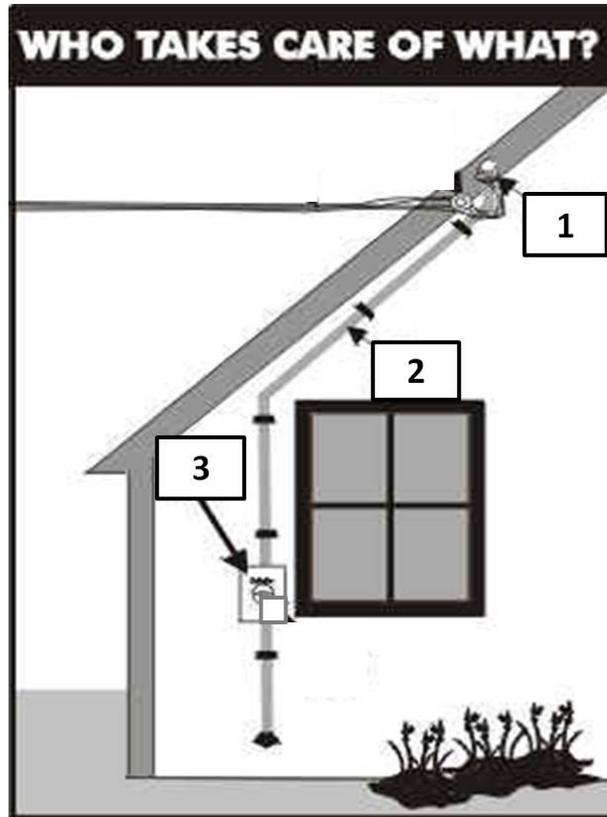
3. What equipment is eligible for repair under Residential Electrical Meter Repair?

- Residential Electrical Meter Repair is intended to address the damage to items that are usually installed and maintained by the homeowner's electrician. The following items are eligible for repair:
 - a. The weather head (*item 1* in the figure below) – attaches to the service cable and prevents water damage to the wiring. This is installed and maintained by the homeowner's electrician.
 - b. Service cable (*item 2* in the figure below) – runs from the weather head to the meter box and from there to the panel box inside the house. The service cable is installed and maintained by the homeowner's electrician.
 - c. Meter socket (*item 3* in the figure below) – is installed and maintained by the homeowner's electrician.

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- The diagram below identifies the eligible elements of an exterior electrical system.



4. Can individual homeowners apply for this assistance?

No. Only the State, Tribal, or local government can be an eligible applicant for reimbursement.

5. Are electrical meters for commercial properties eligible for Residential Electrical Meter Repair?

No. Residential Electrical Meter Repair is for residential properties only. Apartment complexes are considered commercial property.

6. Are there time limitations for the performance of the repair work?

Yes. The work should be completed within 30 days from the date of issuance of the disaster declaration unless extended by the FCO.

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7. Is there a maximum amount that is reimbursable?

Yes. Reimbursement will be based on reasonable cost for the work; however the maximum allowance is \$800 per meter per residential dwelling or unit. This includes equipment, materials, labor and any associated inspection fees to restore the meter to current local codes. The work is performed on a per meter/weather head for repair. Repair costs will not be reimbursed if it is not safe for the residence to have power restored, such as those that have been flooded or have major structural damage that may require electrical repairs other than to the meter/weather head. Removal of debris to allow access to the damaged meter/weather head is not covered under Residential Electrical Meter Repair (See DAP9523.13, *Debris Removal from Private Property* for information on debris removal from private property.) Other residential repairs are not covered as part of Residential Electrical Meter Repair.

8. Is standby time eligible?

No. Standby time for electricians is not eligible.

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Recovery Directorate

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Date