



HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY AS A VOLUNTEER DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) has issued the following information about the Franklin County Community Emergency Response Team (FCCERT) program and classes that are available to become a volunteer Damage Assessment Specialist to help the community be better prepared for emergencies.

What is a PDA?

A PDA is a systematic process of determining the type of damage, the extent of loss and impact suffered by a community in a disaster. An FCCERT PDA is done right after an event to assess damage to homes. PDA specialists are deployed by FCEM&HS into the damaged area right after an emergency and record a firsthand account of damage to the area. Volunteer PDA specialists do not sit behind a desk; instead they are on the ground working in the disaster area.

Why conduct a PDA?

A PDA is the base of information used to determine the need for subliminal federal and or state assistance. A PDA helps to:

- Determine the severity and magnitude of the emergency.
- Quantify homes impacted by the emergency.
- Determines whether local resources will be sufficient to effectively respond and recover from an emergency.

Why should I help by becoming a volunteer PDA Specialist?

- Local damage assessments must be **rapid, detailed, and accurate**. The Volunteer PDA Specialist makes this possible.
- Delay in completing the assessment may hold up supplemental disaster assistance to those most in need of assistance, which could impede your community's recovery.
- PDA reports are submitted to document the who, what, where, and when of the emergency which includes loss, impact and needs of the effected community.
(Source: [Ohio Emergency Management Agency](#), PDA Field Guide.)

Who do I call to sign up?

To take the first step towards making your community better prepared to handle an emergency, contact Christopher Williams, FCEM&HS Community Emergency Response Team Coordinator, by phone: 614-794-0213 or by email: chriswilliams@franklincountyohio.gov.

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