

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Disaster Programs

Zone 7 Fall 2025 Meeting
Elliot Lake, ON
October 9, 2025

Disclaimer

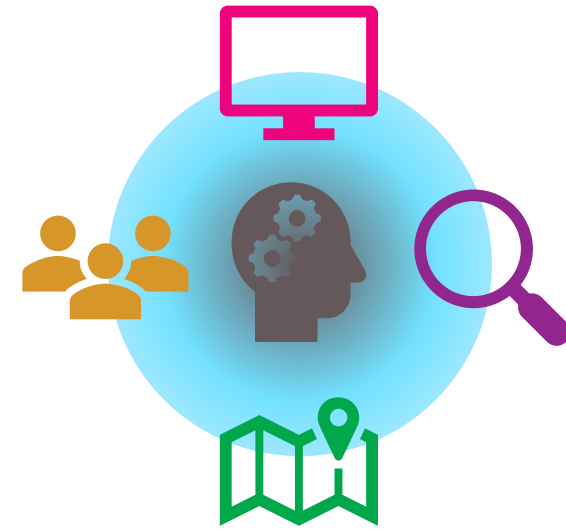
- These slides are provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for convenience only.
- The slides should not be relied on for legal or official purposes and are not meant to replace provincial legislation.
- As local facts and circumstances are variable, users may wish to consider obtaining their own legal advice when particular legal issues arise.
- For more specific information, please refer to the relevant legislation and regulations which can be found online at: www.ontario.ca/laws.

Overview

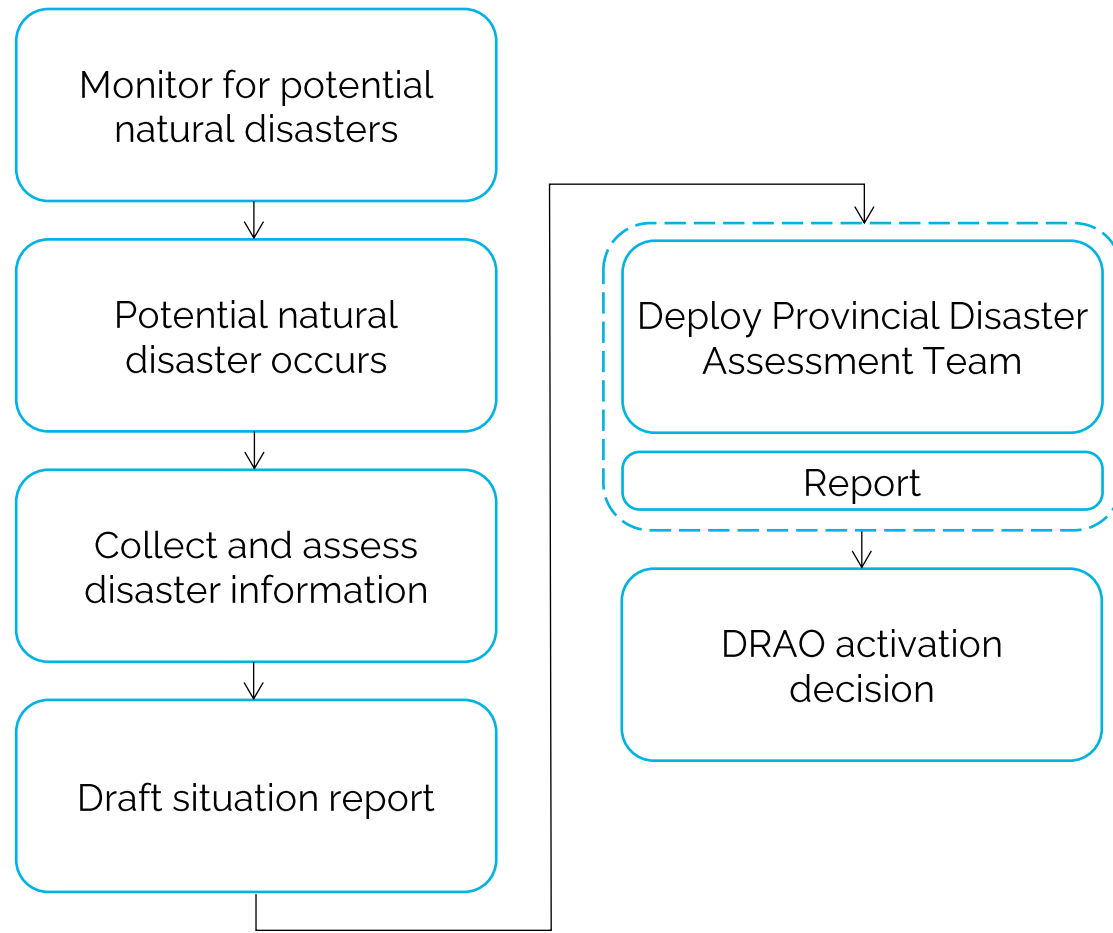
- Damage assessment
- Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO)
- Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA)
- How you can help

Damage Assessment

- Damage assessment is a shared responsibility among ministries, communities and infrastructure owners/operators.
- MMAH's role is to assess damage following extraordinary natural events to support the potential activation of either of the ministry's disaster financial assistance programs, but mostly the DRAO program.
- The ministry assesses damage using a combination of online information sources, strategic partnerships, and in-person Provincial Disaster Assessment Teams.
- Provincial Disaster Assessment Teams are deployed when there is evidence of significant, potentially eligible property damage from a natural event such as a flood or tornado.



Damage Assessment (continued)



DRAO

- The DRAO program may be activated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing when a sudden, unexpected, extraordinary, natural disaster causes costly, widespread damage to private property that is not covered by insurance.
- DRAO is only available if activated and only within a defined area.
- Damage caused by overland flooding, infiltration flooding, and sump pit overflow is eligible for assistance. Damage caused by sewer backup is not eligible except for low-income households.
- Tornado damage is rarely eligible for assistance because wind damage is standard coverage under most insurance policies.

* See guidelines for details and requirements

DRAO Applicant Categories

- Homeowners and Tenants
- Small Owner-Operated Businesses
- Small Owner-Operated Farms
- Not-for Profit Organizations

DRAO Costs

- DRAO provides financial assistance to Ontarians to repair or replace essential property and cover eligible, basic emergency response and recovery costs. It is not a replacement for insurance.
- Eligible costs:
 - Property/buildings essential to a home or operation of a small business/farm
 - Costs incurred to make a property safe and accessible
- Ineligible costs:
 - Furnished basements
 - Buildings not contributing to business/farm operations
 - Tree damage (unless it poses a risk to safety or access)
 - Secondary residences

Examples of eligible costs	Examples of ineligible costs
Furnace, hot water tank, washer, dryer, foundation, roof, plumbing, electrical, basement clean up (drying, sanitizing, insulation, vapour barrier), business inventory, essential equipment/tools, etc.	Luxury items (e.g., jewelry), recreational property (e.g., sports equipment), fencing, landscaping, retaining walls, improvements, insurance deductibles, residential docks, etc.
*Some costs are capped.	

MDRA

- The MDRA program provides financial assistance to municipalities. It may be activated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing when a municipality experiences a sudden, unexpected, extraordinary, natural disaster resulting in eligible operating and capital costs.
- Each municipality is responsible for demonstrating that eligible costs meet the program activation threshold.
- Municipalities should consider maintaining sufficient reserves and appropriate insurance coverage to manage the costs of disasters, within their capacity. They should also consider long-term planning tools, such as asset management plans, as infrastructure ages and is renewed, to support community resilience.
- If you (a municipality) are considering an application, contact your Municipal Services Office as soon as possible.

* See guidelines for details and requirements

MDRA Eligibility

A municipality must:

Have experienced a sudden and unexpected, extraordinary natural disaster

Incur eligible incremental costs (over and above regular budget), directly linked to the disaster that are at least equal to 3% of the municipality's Own Purpose Tax levy

Submit within 120 calendar days of the disaster:

- A resolution of council requesting assistance
- Initial claim with costs incurred and future estimated costs
- Detailed supporting documentation

MDRA Cost Sharing Example

- If MDRA is activated, a cost-sharing formula is applied to determine the amount of assistance.
- Eligible costs must be at least equal to 3% of the municipality's Own Purpose Tax levy.
- Costs up to 3% Own Purpose Tax (OPT) levy: province pays 75%, municipality pays 25%.
- Costs beyond 3% OPT: province pays 95%, municipality pays 5%.
- Example:
 - A municipality with a \$30 million annual OPT levy is hit by flooding and incurs \$1.5 million in eligible costs.
 - The municipality is eligible for MDRA because the eligible costs represent 5% of the municipality's OPT levy ($1,500,000 / 30,000,000 = 5\%$).

Eligible Disaster-Related Costs	Provincial Contribution	Municipal Contribution
Costs ≤ 3% OPT: $\$900,000 = \$30,000,000 \times 0.03$	\$675,000 (75% of \$900,000)	\$225,000 (25% of \$900,000)
Costs > 3% OPT: $\$600,000 = \text{Remainder of costs}$	\$570,000 (95% of \$600,000)	\$30,000 (5% of \$600,000)
Total costs: \$1,500,000	\$1,245,000	\$255,000

MDRA Costs

- Eligible costs
 - Eligible **operating costs** are those incurred to protect public health, safety and access to essential services.
 - Eligible **capital costs** are those to repair public infrastructure or property to pre-disaster condition.
- Ineligible costs
 - Examples of ineligible costs include those related to local electricity distribution companies, debris cleanup unrelated to public safety, regular salaries, and costs incurred to improve property and infrastructure beyond pre-disaster condition.

Examples of eligible operating costs	Examples of eligible capital costs
Sandbagging, setting up emergency centres, providing essential services and ensuring the operability of public infrastructure, regular municipal staff overtime, debris clean up, hiring temporary employees for disaster related activities, etc.	Roads, bridges, and culverts, engineering appraisals, etc.

How You Can Help

- Individuals
 - Know your insurance coverage. Talk to your insurance company.
 - Tell your municipality about your damage.
 - Document your damage and your mitigation work immediately after a disaster—keep your receipts.
- Municipalities
 - Establish a segregated general ledger and document damage and costs.
 - Repair as much as possible and secure any necessary engineering reports for future repairs before submitting your application.
 - Support damage assessment teams (e.g., contact your residents, draft an itinerary; liaise between residents and the team).
 - Provide local data (e.g., rainfall amounts, water levels, historical records).

Questions



For more information:

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