Column descriptions:

Most of those descriptions have been taken verbatim from the [FEMA website](https://www.fema.gov/openfema-dataset-disaster-declarations-summaries-v2) with small clarifications added to some of them:

Full dataset us\_disaster\_declarations.csv:

* fema\_declaration\_string: Agency standard method for uniquely identifying Stafford Act declarations. Concatenation of declaration\_type, disaster\_number and state.
* disaster\_number: Sequentially assigned number used to designate an event or incident declared as a disaster.
* state: US state, district, or territory.
* declaration\_type: One of "DR" (= major disaster), "EM" (= emergency management), or "FM" (= "fire management")
* declaration\_date: Date the disaster was declared.
* fy\_declared: Fiscal year in which the disaster was declared.
* incident\_type: Type of incident such as "Fire", "Flood", or "Hurricane". The incident type will affect the types of assistance available.
* declaration\_title: Title for the disaster. This can be a useful identifier such as "Hurricane Katrina" or "Covid-19 Pandemic".
* ih\_program\_declared: Binary flag indicating whether the "Individuals and Households program" was declared for this disaster.
* ia\_program\_declared: Binary flag indicating whether the "Individual Assistance program" was declared for this disaster.
* pa\_program\_declared: Binary flag indicating whether the "Public Assistance program" was declared for this disaster.
* hm\_program\_declared: Binary flag indicating whether the "Hazard Mitigation program" was declared for this disaster.
* incident\_begin\_date: Date the incident itself began.
* incident\_end\_date: Date the incident itself ended. This feature has about 14% NA entries.
* disaster\_closeout\_date: Date all financial transactions for all programs are completed..
* fips: 5-digit FIPS county code; used to identify counties and county equivalents in the United States, the District of Columbia, US territories, outlying areas of the US and freely associated states. Concatenated from the 2 source columns "fipsStateCode" and "fipsCountyCode".
* place\_code: A unique code system FEMA uses internally to recognize locations that takes the numbers '99' + the 3-digit county FIPS code. There are some declared locations that don't have recognized FIPS county codes in which case a unique identifier was assigned.
* designated\_area: The name or phrase describing the U.S. county that was included in the declaration. Can take the value "Statewide".
* declaration\_request\_number: Unique ID assigned to request for a disaster declaration.
* hash: MD5 Hash of the fields and values of the record.
* last\_refresh: Date the record was last updated by FEMA.
* id: Unique ID assigned to the record. Those last 4 columns are primarily for bookkeeping.