FEMA

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Reports & Data

OpenFEMA Dataset: Disaster Declarations Summaries – v2

Version: 2   **Last Data Refresh: 02-04-2025**

Key	Value
Entity Name	DisasterDeclarationsSummaries
API Endpoint	https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v2/DisasterDeclarationsSummaries
Update Frequency	R/PT20M
Program URL	https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared
Category	Disaster Information
Keywords	disaster

Description

Disaster Declarations Summaries is a summarized dataset describing all federally declared disasters. This dataset lists all official FEMA Disaster Declarations, beginning with the first disaster declaration in 1953 and features all three disaster declaration types: major disaster, emergency, and fire management assistance. The dataset includes declared recovery programs and geographic areas (county not available before 1964; Fire Management records are considered partial due to historical nature of the dataset).

Please note the unique structure of the disaster sequencing (due to a numbering system that originated in the 1950's-1970's):

0001-1999 Major Disaster Declaration

2000-2999 Fire Management

3000-3999 Emergency Declaration (Special Emergency)

4000-4999 Major Disaster Declaration

5000-5999 Fire Management

For more information on the disaster declaration process, see https://www.fema.gov/disasters and https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared

This is raw, unedited data from FEMA's National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS) and as such is subject to a small percentage of human error. The dataset is primarily composed of historical data that was manually entered into NEMIS after it launched in 1998.

Additionally, NEMIS utilizes census data from the United States Census Bureau in which Tribal Nations are listed as localities within a State. As such, disaster declarations for Tribal Nations are currently included in State data.

Citation: FEMA's citation requirements for datasets (API usage or file downloads) can be found on the OpenFEMA Terms and Conditions page, Citing Data section: https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/terms-conditions.

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the OpenFEMA program, API, and publicly available datasets, please visit: https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/faq.

If you have media inquiries about this dataset, please email the FEMA Press Office at FEMA-Press-Office@fema.dhs.gov or call (202) 646-3272. For inquiries about FEMA's data and Open Government program, please email the OpenFEMA team at OpenFEMA@fema.dhs.gov.

Full Data

Format	Address	Record Count	Approximate File Size
csv	Link to csv	67363	small (10MB - 50MB)
json	Link to json	67363	small (10MB - 50MB)
jsona	Link to jsona	67363	small (10MB - 50MB)
jsonl	Link to jsonl	67363	small (10MB - 50MB)
parquet	Link to parquet	67363	tiny (< 10MB)

Data Fields

Name	Title	Type	Description	Is Searchable
femaDeclarationString	FEMA Declaration String	text	Agency standard method for uniquely identifying Stafford Act declarations - Concatenation of declaration type, disaster number and state code. Ex: DR-4393-NC	yes
disasterNumber	Disaster Number	smallint	Sequentially assigned number used to designate an event or incident declared as a disaster. For more information on the disaster process, please visit https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared	yes
state	State	text	The name or phrase describing the U.S. state, district, or territory	yes
declarationType	Declaration Type	text	Two character code that defines if this is a major disaster, fire management, or emergency declaration. For more information on the disaster process, please visit https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared	yes
declarationDate	Declaration Date	date	Date the disaster was declared	yes
fyDeclared	FY Declared	smallint	Fiscal year in which the disaster was declared	yes
incidentType	Incident Type	text	The primary or official type of incident such as fire or flood. Secondary incident types may have been designated. See the designatedIncidentTypes field. For more information on incident types, please visit https://www.fema.gov/disasters/how-declared.	yes
declarationTitle	Declaration Title	text	Title for the disaster	yes

Name	Title	Type	Description	Is Searchable
ihProgram Declared	IH Program Declared	boolean	Denotes whether the Individuals and Households program was declared for this disaster. For more information on the program, please visit https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program. To determine which FEMA events have been authorized to receive Individual Assistance, use both ihProgramDeclared and iaProgramDeclared. For more information see https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/faq	yes
iaProgram Declared	IA Program Declared	boolean	Denotes whether the Individual Assistance program was declared for this disaster. For more information on the program, please visit https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program. To determine which FEMA events have been authorized to receive Individual Assistance, use both ihProgramDeclared and iaProgramDeclared. For more information see https://www.fema.gov/about/openfema/faq	yes
paProgram Declared	PA Program Declared	boolean	Denotes whether the Public Assistance program was declared for this disaster. For more information on the program, please visit https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/program-overview	yes
hmProgra mDeclared	HM Program Declared	boolean	Denotes whether the Hazard Mitigation program was declared for this disaster. For more information on the program, please visit https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation	yes
incidentBe ginDate	Incident Begin Date	date	Date the incident itself began	yes
incidentEn dDate	Incident End Date	date	Date the incident itself ended	yes
disasterClo seoutDate	Disaster Closeout Date	date	Date all financial transactions for all programs are completed	yes
tribalRequ est	Tribal Request	boolean	Denotes that a declaration request was submitted directly to the President, independently of a state, by a Tribal Nation.	yes
fipsStateCo de	FIPS State Code	text	FIPS two-digit numeric code used to identify the United States, the District of Columbia, US territories, outlying areas of the US and freely associated states	yes
fipsCounty Code	FIPS County Code	text	FIPS three-digit numeric 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. Please note that Indian Reservations are not counties and thus will not have a FIPS county code, please utilize the placeCode field instead. If the designation is made	yes

Name	Title	Type	Description	Is Searchable
			for the entire state, this value will be 000 as multiple (all) counties cannot be entered.	
placeCode	Place Code	text	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 dont have recognized FIPS county codes in which case we assigned a unique identifier	yes
designated Area	Designated Area	text	The name or phrase describing the geographic area that was included in the declaration	yes
declaration RequestNu mber	Declaration Request Number	text	Number assigned to the declaration request	yes
lastIAFiling Date	Last IA Filing Date	date	Last date when IA requests can be filed. Data available after 1998 only. The date only applies if IA has been approved for the disaster.	yes
incidentId	Incident Identifier	text	Unique identifier for an incident. Incidents are events that may or may not become declared disasters.	yes
region	Region	smallint	Number (1-10) used to represent the FEMA region where the disaster occurred.	yes
designated IncidentTy pes	Declared Incident types	text	A comma-separated list of incident types designated for the disaster. The primary incident type is described in the incidentType field. Codes are: 0: Not applicable; 1: Explosion; 2: Straight-Line Winds; 3: Tidal Wave; 4: Tropical Storm; 5: Winter Storm; 8: Tropical Depression; A: Tsunami; B: Biological; C: Coastal Storm; D: Drought; E: Earthquake; F: Flood; G: Freezing; H: Hurricane; I: Terrorist; J: Typhoon; K: Dam/Levee Break; L: Chemical; M: Mud/Landslide; N: Nuclear; O: Severe Ice Storm; P: Fishing Losses; Q: Crop Losses; R: Fire; S: Snowstorm; T: Tornado; U: Civil Unrest; V: Volcanic Eruption; W: Severe Storm; X: Toxic Substances; Y: Human Cause; Z: Other	yes
lastRefresh	Last Refresh	datetimez	Date the record was last updated in the API data store	yes
hash	Hash	text	MD5 Hash of the fields and values of the record	no
id	ID	uuid	Unique ID assigned to the record	yes

See Also

Access the metadata API calls for additional information:

- https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/OpenFemaDataSets?$filter=name%20eq%20%27DisasterDeclarationsSummaries%27

- https://www.fema.gov/api/open/v1/OpenFemaDataSetFields?$filter=openFemaDataSet%20eq%20%27DisasterDeclarationsSummaries%27%20and%20datasetVersion%20eq%202

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Return to top

Disasters & Assistance

Grants

Floods & Maps

Emergency Management

About

Work With Us

FEMA

Contact FEMA

National Terrorism Advisory System