



Garland Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Garland RACES Rapid Damage Assessment Procedure

Damage Assessment Defined

Damage assessment is quickly determining how "bad is bad" and where the damage is after an event has impacted the City of Garland. We do this through a variety of mechanisms, including utilizing RACES. Remember damage assessment is a recovery operation, so once the event has passed, you might be asked to move to a RACES net for Garland and begin reporting damage, including being asked to deploy to specific locations. Note that damage assessment is a requested function and **not to self-dispatch**.

What OEM Needs to Know (Rapid Damage Assessment)

Verification of any reports of damage including damage to homes, business, infrastructure (streets, bridges, parks), and debris.

The location of the damage - we use geographic landmarks such as streets, parks, and neighborhoods (not Mapsco grids) to get a footprint of the damage.

How bad the damage is - we understand that this will be fast and subjective. We are not looking for 100% accuracy, but to find out quickly if we are going to need outside resources. Keep in mind that you are not helping determine whether individual homes/homeowners receive assistance; only whether or not Garland can respond with local, regional, or state assets.

FEMA standards for Residences and Businesses:

- **Affected** - Damage that is characterized by the structure still capable of being used for its original purpose without endangering safety; for example, a house still being habitable due to broken shingles, windows, or damage to vehicles.
- **Minor** - Damage to a structure that makes it unusable, but is quickly repairable (under 30 days) or is under 50% value of the structure.
- **Major** - Damage to structural components that makes a structure unusable and requires substantial repairs (can be over 30 days) and is over 50% of the value of the structure.
- **Destroyed** - Damage where there is total loss or damage to a structure that repairs are not economically feasible, the structure is permanently unusable, or has complete failures to major components.

For **debris**, we need to know about sizable amounts of debris, and any debris that is blocking streets - this is not the same as when reporting during a SkyWarn net.

For **infrastructure**, downed power lines, broken water mains, and anything that has been damaged that provides a service to the citizens of Garland.

Remember - **safety first**, never put yourself in danger or attempt to enter an area that is hazardous to help with damage assessment. In these instances, report about the hazard so City personnel can respond to clear the area.