



Montana Recovery Support Function #2 – Economic Recovery

Primary Agency:

Montana Department of Commerce



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Maintained by Department of Military Affairs
Disaster and Emergency Services Division

*This Annex is considered operational and serves as a guide for rendering assistance whenever the **Montana Disaster Recovery Framework (MDRF)** is activated. It supersedes all previous editions.*

Record of Changes

All changes to this Annex are to be dated on the master copy kept by the Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (DES).

Date Posted	Change	Recommending Agency/Individual
9/26/2025	Updated Commerce Logo	MT Dept. of Commerce / Melissa Herrera

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Section I: Agencies

State Coordinating Agency:

Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

State Primary Agency:

Department of Commerce

State Supporting Agencies:

Department of Administration

Department of Agriculture

Department of Environmental Quality

Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Department of Justice

Department of Labor and Industry

Department of Livestock

Department of Military Affairs

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Department of Public Health and Human Services

Department of Revenue

Department of Transportation

Governor's Office

Montana Arts Council

Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

Montana Historical Society

Montana Public Service Commission

University Systems

Section II: Purpose & Scope

Purpose:

Recovery Support Function (RSF) 2 describes how the State of Montana integrates expertise to help county and Tribal governments, and the private sector sustain and/or rebuild businesses and employment and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities after an incident.

Economic recovery is a critical and integral part of disaster recovery. Disasters not only damage property, but also entire markets for goods and services. The speed and effectiveness of returning a community to self-sufficiency and vitality depend upon quickly adapting to changed market conditions, reopening businesses and/or establishing new businesses. The private sector employs workers, provide for community needs and services, and generate revenue once again, allowing the community, both its members and government, to provide for itself. The attraction of outside investment and the role of the private sector cannot be understated as foundational in a community's economic recovery.

Importantly, RSF 2 works closely with local community leadership who direct long-term economic recovery efforts. This requires the sustained engagement of possibly months or years by RSF leadership with the leadership of disaster-impacted jurisdictions. A complex undertaking, this RSF engages many entities utilizing government assistance. These actions encourage reinvestment and facilitate private-sector lending and borrowing necessary for the functioning of vital markets and economies. Effective

economic recovery following a disaster is positively influenced by pre-disaster community planning including mitigation actions that increase community resilience.

Scope:

RSF 2 is designed to provide guidance to state departments in aiding local and Tribal partners in addressing economic recovery of the whole community. The following are potential activities included within the scope of RSF 2 are (this list is comprehensive but not all-inclusive):

- Identify and leverage available funds and services to meet the needs of the impacted community.
- Support the capacity of local and Tribal governments, nonprofits, and the private sector to produce a sound economic recovery strategy and enhance community resilience at the local and regional level.
- Support existing recovery organizations and encourage the development of local long-term recovery organizations/groups through technical assistance, best-practice identification, and sustained liaison engagement.
- Consideration for the integration, access, collection, and analysis of data related to economic recovery.
- Alignment of economic recovery planning efforts with other community-driven planning efforts and issues.
- Analysis of post disaster labor demand with supply, retraining programs, the unemployed, and temporary employment.
- Identification of small business needs such as loans, business continuity planning, and the need for technical assistance.

Section III: Assumptions & Relationships

Assumptions:

The following assumptions guide RSF 2 activities:

- Without active support, some businesses that are closed for more than three days will eventually fail.
- Some businesses will recover quicker and more easily than others, based on pre-disaster preparedness, overall resource capacity, and the impact of the disaster.
- While large businesses rarely fail or leave after major disasters, those that leave are unlikely to return.
- Many small businesses are underinsured and lack the necessary cash reserves to continue operating after a disaster.
- Temporary recovery-related businesses such as inspections, construction, and other trades that emerge post-disaster will be key to rebuilding. It will be challenging to regulate them and make sure they are legitimate.
- Economic recovery is a key link to restoring the basic necessities of jobs and housing. To keep residents in Montana, communities will have to restore economic activity, as well as the housing, services, and functions addressed in other RSFs.

- Without jobs, people will leave the community to seek employment elsewhere. This will be true of individuals with a wide range of circumstances, from those with little savings to highly employable technology workers who will find it relatively easy to find work elsewhere.
- Freeing people of other concerns so they can go back to work will be a priority.
- Communities will need schools, medical clinics, and public safety functions restored before people feel safe leaving their families and returning to work.
- Getting utilities working is critical. Without power, internet, water, etc. businesses cannot operate.

Relationships:

This document does not relieve tasked agencies of the responsibility for planning. The following section outlines the relationships between state agencies and local, Tribal, private, and non-governmental organization partners in supporting RSF 2 economic recovery activities:

Local & Tribal Governments

After a disaster, local and Tribal elected leadership has the authority to appoint individuals to lead the recovery efforts or approve/disapprove leadership nominations to a recovery organizational body. Elected leaders may also have the responsibility for approving and adopting a post-disaster recovery plan and setting the tone for the community's overall recovery. Elected officials advocate for their communities and can draft and support initiatives to aid their community's recovery. Elected officials can speed up the recovery timeline by swiftly making emergency or disaster declarations, when necessary. Other actions may include enacting housing-specific or utility moratoria, waiving permits or permit fees, temporarily permitting non-traditional housing options in locations which would, under normal circumstances be prohibited.

Local and Tribal emergency or disaster proclamations or declarations are usually prepared by the local or Tribal emergency manager and implemented by the executive head of the political subdivision or Tribal government. The exact process will depend upon specific local and Tribal requirements. Local and Tribal emergency or disaster proclamations or declarations are an important step in the recovery process. The proclamation/declaration often triggers specific local, state and/or federal assistance programs and procedures.

In addition to local and Tribal emergency management, the local and Tribal government plays an important role of leading the overall community recovery process. Local and Tribal elected officials often take on a leadership role after a disaster in directing, overseeing, and/or supporting the community recovery planning efforts. Additionally, local, and Tribal government functions including planning, public works, parks and recreation, education departments, etc. all play an integral part in supporting the collaborative and deliberate community recovery and revitalization planning efforts following a disaster.

Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organizations

The private sector plays a critical role in supporting disaster recovery efforts because the private sector owns or operates a large proportion of the resources that would be needed for rapid restoration of the infrastructure. Developing relationships with private sector stakeholders and establishing public-private partnerships is important for all levels of government. Businesses and jobs can be saved, and a viable recovery can be accomplished when private sector needs are coordinated. Public-private partnerships can support government needs by providing technical assistance, donations, subject matter expertise and non-traditional financial resources.

Logistics relies heavily on the private sector to procure items in support of recovery efforts. The private sector contributes substantially by providing much-needed donations or providing goods and services through contractual arrangement or government purchases to assist in recovery. The private sector also supports recovery activities through advisory and supportive roles. They may participate in policy groups when requested and provide other unique technological support when requested. The private sector may be represented in state and local recovery organizations.

Private sector associations and trade groups can help provide recovery leadership with information on the resources and of their membership and coordinate connections to key stakeholders. Examples of private-sector associations include business associations, professional associations, and local, state, and national chambers of commerce.

Nongovernmental, volunteer-based, and other community organizations provide essential resources to state and local jurisdictions to assist in the recovery phase of disaster operations. Working with the impacted jurisdiction, they identify disaster recovery related capabilities needed to meet organizational roles and responsibilities. They may provide trained support staff to the SEOC, JFO or the requesting jurisdiction to assist in disaster recovery operations. Assistance may include providing personnel, organizational support of long-term recovery groups, financial assistance and management, disaster case management and recovery trainings and agency/department recovery program delivery.

State Government

State departments and agencies are responsible, within their statutory authorities, for providing assistance to local and Tribal jurisdictions when local capabilities are overwhelmed by a disaster. The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) serves as the principal point for state, local, Tribal, and federal resources in the coordination of emergency assistance to affected jurisdiction(s).

The SECC will coordinate with the primary agency and support agencies in the use of state resources to support RSF 2 economic recovery activities. State resources will supplement, not supplant, local resources. When mobilized to assist local and Tribal jurisdictions, the primary agency and support agencies will develop work priorities in cooperation with local and Tribal governments and in coordination with the SECC. If the Governor has declared an emergency, resources may be requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the nation's state-to-state mutual aid system that is processed through the SECC.

Section IV: Core Capability and Target Outcomes

The following table list the core capability key activities that the coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies collectively support. Though not listed in the table, all RSF's, including RSF 2, support the core capabilities of planning, operational coordination, and public information and warning.

<u>CORE CAPABILITY</u>	Key Activities – The SECC coordinates with the primary agency and supporting agencies to coordinate resources in support and response for the following key activities during actual or potential incidents:
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Economic Recovery	Return economic and business activities (including food and agriculture) to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that result in an economically viable community. Mitigation and Preparedness: • Identifies statutory, regulatory and policy issues that contribute to gaps, inconsistencies, and unmet needs in economic recovery. • Encourage and support community and economic development planning in disaster recovery. • Support partnerships and integration of government efforts and resources with private capital and the business sector. • Create, encourage, and participate in disaster recovery exercises to enhance skills and develop needed techniques. • Leverage mitigation projects and incentives to create strong communities resilient to disaster. • Encourage and support the establishment of disaster information networks for businesses. Post Disaster • Support efforts to conduct preliminary assessments of economic issues and identify potential inhibitors to fostering stabilization of the affected communities. • Integrate local and Tribal plans developed pre-disaster to most effectively leverage state and federal resources and available programs to meet local and Tribal community recovery needs while aggressively integrating with the private sector to facilitate early and productive engagement. • Support returning affected area's economy within the specified timeframe of the county and Tribal recovery plans. • Develop recovery action plans for each disaster to ensure the coordinated action of all state agencies, stakeholders, and supporting entities in the support of local and Tribal governments. • Incorporate mitigation measures into redevelopment following a disaster to build the community back stronger to minimize future risk. • Build upon the relationships developed during pre-disaster planning, works closely with local community leadership during disaster recovery to provide technical assistance and data related to economic development. • Maintain robust and accessible communications throughout the recovery process between all partners to ensure ongoing dialogue and information sharing.
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	• If necessary, engage the workforce development system, including State vocational rehabilitation programs, as a means of helping individuals who acquire a disability as part of the disaster return to work with the appropriate supports, accommodation and retraining.
Target Outcomes	
Through the coordination of local, State, Tribal and Federal government programs and the private sector, the Economic Recovery Support Function and local leadership leverages, following a disaster, community development plans and stakeholder relationships to create a new post-disaster economic condition meeting community needs. The following actions encourage reinvestment and facilitate private sector lending and borrowing necessary for the functioning of vital markets and economies. Sustained pre- and post-disaster mitigation actions create a community less at risk, strengthen future economic stability and create possible insurance benefits. Specific outcomes may include: • Workforce development initiatives are in place; jobs are created and retained. • Entrepreneurial and business development initiatives are in place. • Community-wide economic development plans are developed with broad input and consider regional economic recovery and resiliency. • Strategies for quickly adapting to changed market conditions, reopening businesses and/or establishing new businesses are in place. • Business initiatives to employ workers and generate revenue are in place. • Management plans ensure that the most effective use of Federal funds is in place. • Federal funds are withheld when discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability are present. • Private and public sector actors have information they need to make informed decisions about recovery.	

Section V: Operational Capabilities

The following table lists the capabilities that both the primary agency and supporting agencies may provide to support recovery activities for RSF 2 – Economic Recovery:

<u>PRIMARY AGENCY</u>	Operational Capabilities – Montana Department of Commerce serves as the primary agency. The operational capability for the primary agency includes:
Montana Department of Commerce	Board of Investment Intercept Loan Program • Low-interest loans to Montana local government, state agencies, and universities for a variety of purposes (i.e., construction, repair, expansion, equipment, vehicles, interim financing). Business MT Division • Collect and interpret business economic impact data to justify program assistance requests under a Presidential Declaration.

	• The Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDC) program supports each of the CRDCs with annual funding for economic development services supporting their region, including personnel, and operating expenses, and any other expenses deemed necessary to maintain the organization’s certification as a CRDC. • The Native American Business Advisor (NABA) grant provides support to native organizations that offer business and credit counseling, and application support to Native American businesses in Montana. • Identify the priority needs of local communities and facilitate local strategic planning to develop local economies. • Foster collaboration and bring elected officials, business leaders and stakeholders together to prepare and implement regional development strategies. • Fund projects for the development and enhancement of business opportunities on reservations, in Tribal communities, and for Native American businesses. • Support industry across the state through technical assistance, loans, and grants to businesses strengthening Montana’s economy and creating job opportunities. • Coordinates the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) network supporting ten regional centers across the state that help small businesses achieve their goals of growth, innovation, and success. • Assist businesses in Montana increase their international sales through technical assistance and marketing. • Leverage financial resources from a variety of sectors that include government (federal, state, county and local), the private sector, philanthropic community, and academia to expand their region’s economy. • Administers the State Small Business Credit Initiative 2.0 Loan Participation Program Community MT Division • Assist with facilitating or enable planning efforts to identify local government redevelopment or disaster recovery priorities and needs. • Provide technical assistance in a local government redevelopment process. • Can administer new federal or state disaster money/funding/grants to local governments for a rebuilding program in the case of an extraordinary state or community disaster and with ‘special’ Presidential/Gubernatorial declarations and ‘special’ congressional/legislative authorizations. • Administers the Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) which helps local governments and other eligible entities with infrastructure planning as well as constructing or upgrading infrastructure, including but not limited to drinking water systems,
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	wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary or storm sewer systems, solid waste disposal and separation systems, and bridges. • Administers the Community Development Block Grant Program used for community planning activities, housing, public and community facilities, and economic development which is intended to benefit low to moderate income Montanans. • Administers the State-Local Infrastructure Partnership Act (SLIPA) program which provides grant funding for eligible projects such as drinking water systems, wastewater treatment systems, fire suppression systems, roads, bridges, landfills, airports, public grounds, and buildings, etc. • Administers the Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG) which is designed to support public or private entities with the preservation of historic sites, historical societies, or history museums through grant funding. The MHPG Program provides the opportunity to stimulate economic development, community revitalization, and statewide tourism through increased investment, job creation or retention, business expansion, and local tax base growth. • Administers the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act (MCR) Planning Grant Program which provides planning grants to local governments and Tribal governments for planning and zoning reforms to increase housing supply. • Provides professional planning assistance to communities across Montana in support of sound land use and development decisions, economic revitalization, and overall community resilience through the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP). • Provides professional planning assistance to communities across Montana in support of sound land use and development decisions, economic revitalization, and overall community resilience. • Provides technical assistance to complete lead services line inventories. • Developed the Montana's Resilience Framework which provides a step-by-step process for communities to identify, assess, and adapt to social, economic, and ecological disruptions.
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<u>SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS</u>	Operational Capabilities – The operational capability for the supporting agencies includes:
Department of Administration	Architecture and Engineering Division • Coordinates with Building Officials to expedite building inspections. • Assist with or coordinate building damage assessment at the local, Tribal, or state level. • Coordinates with DOJ State Fire Marshall's Office and Fire Prevention to support expedited building inspections. General Services Division

	- Assist with or coordinate building damage assessment at the county or state level. - Provide technical assistance for contracting and procurement support. Risk Management and Tort Defense Division - Provide insurance consultation on state owned assets that have been damaged. State Financial Services Division - Administers the broadband infrastructure deployment program which oversees \$100 million to improve broadband coverage across the state. State Human Resources Division - Ensure that the necessary personnel and accounting policies dealing with disaster situations are in place. - Provide personnel support for all state employee issues during and after disasters. State Information Technology Services Division - Provide telephone and data services to support emergency call centers or operations centers in major cities throughout the state.
Department of Agriculture	Agriculture Development Division - Administers the Hail Insurance Program. - Administers the Montana Food and Agricultural Development Center (FADC) Network which helps Montanans innovate and grow businesses that produce and commercialize food, agricultural and renewable energy products, and processes. - Administers the Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program. Examples of eligible project activities involve equipment purchases, construction costs, advertising and promotion, and consultant services for engineering. - Through the Rural Assistance Loan Program, provides loans to agricultural enterprises to assist in the economic growth and welfare of Montana agriculture. Funds may be used to finance agricultural property, improvements, annual operating expenses, and agricultural land. - Provides information on USDA Disaster Assistance Programs. - Provides a list of potential alternate facilities to which Montana Agriculture Producers may relocate. Agriculture Sciences Division - Provides license and inspection of anhydrous ammonia facilities if they are a commercial fertilizer facility.
Department of Environmental Quality	Air, Energy, and Mining Division <u>Energy Bureau</u> - Analyzes potential impacts to the electric power, oil, natural gas, and coal infrastructures; analysis of market impacts to the economy; and determines the effect a disruption has on other critical infrastructure. - Energy codes for buildings.

	• Energy planning, finance, and technical assistance. • Coordinates the restoration and protection of Montana’s critical electricity, natural gas, and liquid fuels infrastructure, and related fuel supply systems, during and following a disaster or significant disruption. • Assists in coordinating the provision of temporary emergency power to critical facilities. • Suggests and implement strategies as needed to address shortages or high prices of energy in Montana. • Provides energy consumers with advice on ways to meet their energy needs and to generally provide an effective source of information to the public. • Coordinates with agencies pertaining to the implementation of emergency waivers. • Assists in identifying critical water and wastewater systems requiring priority power restoration. • Provides energy generation and/or transmission technical expertise as requested. • Provides information concerning the energy restoration process, such as projected restoration schedules, percent completion of restoration, geographic information on the restoration, and other information as appropriate. <u>Mining Bureau</u> • Issues operating permits for opencut (coal or uranium) sites and gravel pits. Water Quality Division <u>Public Water Supply Bureau</u> • Regulates non-Tribal public drinking water systems (systems) to ensure drinking water always meets the minimum standards. • Ensures compliance with regulations for monitoring, operation, design, and construction of systems. • Ensures compliance with operator certification regulations for both water and wastewater technicians. • Assists with finding remedies for system problems. • Assists with regulatory concerns and compliance issues. • Assists in determining the suitability for human consumption of water from local sources and in identifying hazardous materials having the potential to affect drinking water supplies. • Can facilitate temporary assignments or temporary certification of water or wastewater operators. <u>Engineering Bureau</u> • Administers the State Revolving Fund Loan Program that provides below market interest loans for eligible wastewater, drinking water, and nonpoint source pollution projects. Can be used for repair or reconstruction of damaged facilities. • Provides subdivision review on divisions of land comprising less than 20 acres, as well as condominiums and recreational camping
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	vehicles and mobile home parks, regardless of the size of the parcel where they are located. Review is limited to sanitation facilities, including the water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal, and storm drainage systems. • Reviews and approves water systems for subdivisions (Sanitation Act). Reviews certain subdivision applications for lot size, topography, geology, hydrology, etc. (Subdivision and Platting Act). • Provides engineering personnel to assist in damage assessment, structural inspections of drinking water, wastewater, and/or solid waste facility, design estimation, in determining the operating status of drinking water and wastewater systems, and construction for repair, reconstruction, and restoration of eligible facilities. • Provides engineering, technical, and/or compliance assistance in support of temporary protection and repair of drinking water, wastewater, and/or solid waste facilities. • Assist in identifying critical drinking water and wastewater needs, including personnel, electrical power, and treatment chemicals. • Approves construction, alteration, or extension of public sewer systems. • Reviews and approves public water/wastewater engineering plans. <u>Water Quality Planning Bureau</u> • Monitoring in support of water quality standards. <u>Water Protection Bureau</u> • Authorizes short-term exemptions from the water quality standards for the purposes of emergency remediation that has been approved, authorized, or required by DEQ (308 exemptions). • Authorizes short-term turbidity standards for construction projects that affect water bodies (318 standards). • Issues gray water reuse permits. • Issues wastewater discharge permits. • Issues storm water permits. • Issues water pollution discharge permits. • Issues animal feeding operations (AFOs) and confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) permits. Waste Management and Remediation Division <i>Superfund, AML, and Construction Bureau</i> • Facilitates the investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. <i>Tanks, Brownfields, and Federal Facilities Bureau</i> • Issues license for individuals who install, close, inspect, or oversee the installation, closure, compliance, or inspection of underground storage tanks. • Directs and oversees reporting, investigation, cleanup, and resolution of petroleum releases and approves the cleanup efforts of the facility. <i>Waste Management Bureau</i> • Issues licenses to persons disposing of solid waste or operating a solid waste management system.
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	• Issues permits to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste. • Reviews infectious waste transportation and management plans to ensure waste is hauled and stored according to specific standards. • Issues licenses for individuals engaged in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, portable toilets, privies, grease traps, car wash sumps, or similar treatment works, or disposal of septage and other hazardous wastes. • Administers asbestos project permits, asbestos facility permits, inspects asbestos projects, accredits persons engaged in asbestos-related work, approves and audits asbestos training course providers, and administers the asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). • Provides expertise in hazardous waste management and is responsible for permitting, compliance assurance, and technical assistance for hazardous waste (including explosive material) and used oil management. • Provides expertise in solid waste management and is responsible for licensing and providing compliance and technical assistance for solid waste management systems, including construction and demolition. • Provides technical support to local and state solid waste agencies for waste characterization and management options that includes inspection, treatment, storage, sampling, monitoring, recycling and or disposal. <i>Enforcement Program</i> • Receives and administers complaints, determining if a violation of DEQ regulations has occurred and providing compliance assistance to correct the violation in a timely manner. Refer complaints related to DEQ permitted activity to the appropriate regulatory program. Refers those complaints with other jurisdiction to appropriate city, county, state, or federal agencies. • Supports prioritizing recommendations for the stabilization and re-establishment of the associated critical drinking water, wastewater, and/or solid waste facilities. • Houses the majority of DEQ's Incident Management Team and On-Scene Coordinators.
Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	All Divisions • Provide assessments regarding the conditions and utilization of state parks and recreational roads, bridges, boat ramps, trails, and waterways. Fisheries Division • Receives notice from State agencies in Montana before initiating any construction project that will affect any Montana stream or its banks or tributaries.

	• Conducts environmental review to identify, consider, and disclose any potential impacts of proposed work on or near a waterway in Montana. • Provide funding to eligible recipients to restore rivers, streams, and lakes to improve and restore Montana's wild fish habitats. Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division • Provide heavy equipment resources to assist in maintaining the operability of transportation systems. • Monitors groundbreaking activities so cultural and historical sites and artifacts are not negatively impacted.
Department of Justice	Division of Criminal Investigation • Regulates the installation, operation, and removal of aboveground storage tanks to ensure safety from fire and verify compliance with International Fire Code. Legal Services Division • Research legal opinions, represent state agencies in legal matters, and define the constitutionality of state laws. Office of Consumer Protection • Seeks to protect Montana consumers from, and educate them about, harmful, and unfair practices by retail businesses. The Consumer Protection Act prohibits businesses from taking advantage of consumers. State Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Prevention • Assist with adoption of fire safety regulations, inspection of public buildings, establishment and promotion of fire prevention programs, certification of local inspection programs, and the investigation of fires to determine cause and origin.
Department of Labor and Industry	Business Standards Division • Issue and expedite building permits and performs inspections to ensure compliance with Building Codes (building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical). • Regulate health and safety hazards in the workplaces. • Issue and expedite permits for building, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical as listed in the Department rules. • Provide regulatory and professional licensing waivers and exemptions following a disaster. Employment Standards Division • Adapt the procedures for enforcing federal and state labor standards laws, state wage and hour laws, and contractor registrations to ensure proper enforcement. • Labor Market Information • Provides current Montana economic data such as demographic analysis, data, maps, etc. Workforce Services Division <i>Administers statewide network of workforce development centers that:</i> • Collaborate with community partners to provide customer focused employment and training opportunities.

	• Assist in preparing, training, and connecting a highly skilled workforce to local businesses. • Technical assistance to prevent layoffs and closures of a business affected by disaster conditions • Providing referrals and connections to nonprofit and government service providers to help people meet basic needs during an emergency or while searching for a job. For example, if someone's home was destroyed by a fire or other emergency, we could help provide transportation, clothing, or other items needed for them to continue working. We would also connect them to other community resources. • Assistance in filing UI claims, especially for those who may not have access to online services. Unemployment Insurance Division • Temporary assistance for qualified workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.
Department of Livestock	Animal Health Division • Responsible for effecting the suspension or development of Montana regulations allowing the rapid movement of animals into Montana from neighboring states experiencing an emergency or disaster. Brands Enforcement Division • Regulate and monitor inter and intra-state animal movement. • Provide animal identification and ownership verification in situations involving strayed, lost, or stolen animals. Law Enforcement Personnel • Agency sworn Peace Officers perform regulatory and law enforcement duties and assist other federal, state, or local jurisdictions when requested. Meat, Milk, and Eggs Division • Reviews and approves construction plans for remodeling, new construction, or relocation of a dairy facility. • Assist with informational outreach educating citizens as to whether or not food remaining after a disaster or emergency is still consumable. Meat and Poultry Inspection Section • Reviews and approves construction of plans for remodeling or new structures for slaughterhouses, meat packing houses, mobile slaughter facilities, or meat storage facilities. • Conducts onsite inspection of establishment facilities, slaughter operations, processing of products, laboratory testing, and product labeling.

Department of Military Affairs	Army and Air National Guard Divisions <i>Upon approval by the Governor:</i> • Provide personnel and equipment to transport supplies and equipment. Disaster and Emergency Services Division • Coordinates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide assistance in the wake of disaster. • Coordinates contracting, acquisitions, and deployments of personnel, equipment, and supplies in response to requests for State assistance, as appropriate. • Coordinates National Guard assistance, when requested and upon approval by the Governor. • Coordinates and/or deploys personnel to fill positions in operations centers and on emergency response teams and other entities, as necessary. • Coordinates EMAC, Federal, and International offers of safety and security support. • Coordinates and/or provides situational awareness. • Coordinates the Individual and Households and Other Needs Assistance Program (IA) and the Public Assistance (PA) programs.
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Board of Oil and Gas Conservation • Issues permits for various oil and gas activities including drilling permits, well work, and UIC Class II injection wells. Conservation and Resource Development Division • Assists conservation districts in meeting legal requirements through legal and operational support, financial assistance, and professional development. • Administers the Irrigation Development Grant which funds irrigation efficiencies through water conservation, expand or sustain irrigated acreage, increase production of high-value crops, improve management of irrigation systems, and/or improve inter-basin cooperation among all water users. • Administers the Private Water Development Loans which fund irrigation system improvements (for example, conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation). Rangeland Improvement Loans • The Rangeland Improvement Loan Program (RILP) provides low-interest loans to Montana’s farmers and ranchers for eligible projects such as mechanical restoration, reseeding, and anything that is considered a range improvement. • The Renewable Resource Loan Programs provides loans to governmental entities, including irrigation districts, for projects that provide for or improve the conservation, management, development, or preservation of Montana’s renewable resources. Reclamation and Development Grants (RDG) - Project and Planning • Funds reclamation projects that repair, reclaim, and mitigate environmental damage to public resources from non-renewable

	resource extraction and crucial state need projects that prevent or eliminate severe and unacceptable damage to natural resources or capture extraordinary public benefit that would otherwise be lost. • Renewable Resource Grants • Funds the conservation, management, development, and preservation of Montana's renewable resources. The RRG Project Grant Program has funded numerous public facility projects including drinking water, wastewater and solid waste development and improvement projects have received funding through this program. Other renewable resource projects that have been funded include irrigation rehabilitation, dam repair, soil and water conservation and forest enhancement. • Administers grants that are available for emergency projects that pose an immediate threat to the beneficial management of a renewable resource and, if delayed, will cause substantial damage or legal liability. • Administers the renewable resource grants to private entities which are available for any water-related project that meets the purpose of the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program. The grant promotes the conservation, development, and beneficial use of Montana's water resources to secure maximum economic and social prosperity for its citizens. • Administers the Watershed Management Grant (WMG) Program which provides financial support for the development and implementation of locally led watershed related planning and capacity building activities that conserve, develop, improve or preserve state natural resources. Water Resources Division • Issues and expedites Beneficial Water Use Permit for anyone planning on new or expanded development for a beneficial use of water from surface or groundwater after June 30, 1973 • Licenses water well drillers and contractors and enforces water well construction standards. • Provide a resource list for licensed well drillers and monitoring well drillers. • Modify construction well standards to expedite or protect water well construction. • Provide support in assessing damages to affected levees, dikes, canals, or dams. • Conduct inspections and providing expertise with repair and rehabilitation of levees, dikes, canals, or dams. • Provide assistance with construction oversight for levee, dike, canal, or dam repairs. • Provide assistance identifying water right owners and water use facilities or structures. • Coordinate with water users to redirect water allocations.
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	Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) Provides a tool to help people navigate the funding options and resources available between multiple government agencies and other organizations to facilitate a successful project for all stakeholders involved.
Department of Public Health and Human Services	Human and Community Services Division - Administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) pays part of winter energy bills and may be able to assist with furnace emergencies for eligible people. - Administers the Weatherization Assistance Program helps participants to improve the heating efficiency of their homes and thus reduce their energy consumption. - Administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – a program which provides temporary financial assistance to needy families for up to 60 months. Public Health and Safety Division - Issues Wholesale Food Licenses. Quality Assurance Division - Regulates radioactive waste disposal activities.
Department of Revenue	- Inform property owners of the natural disaster property tax relief available by sending them natural disaster applications. These applications will be processed, determining the necessary adjustments to taxable value for improvements or forestlands that have been destroyed and submitting the appropriate paperwork to the county treasurer for adjustments or refunds of taxes paid. - Coordinate the appraisal of properties affected by natural disaster and encourage property owners to submit the applications. - Collaboration with local, state, and Tribal governments to provide GIS services to identify parcels and property owners affected as well as changes in value determined as a result of the natural disaster. - Provide outreach and technical assistance to individuals and businesses on income and corporate tax relief related to the natural disaster, which could include amending individual income tax or corporate tax returns to take advantage of deductions for disaster losses, extending deadlines for filing tax returns and making payments, and recovering important tax records that may have been lost during the natural disaster.
Department of Transportation	Aeronautics Division - Provide information regarding the conditions and usability of airports as they relate to disaster recovery. Engineering Division - Issues encroachment permits for any person or entity proposing to encroach on a highway right-of-way for construction of any installation, device, object, or occupancy that is located at, above, or

	below the grade lines of the highway and within the right-of-way limits and is not installed as part of the highway (including landscaping and maintenance). • Coordinates technical assistance for transportation engineering, construction, and contracts. • Coordinates assessment of damaged transportation infrastructure. • Act as an in-house consultant to other state agencies, local, or Tribal governments requiring assistance with roadway or bridge design, construction management, inspection oversight or engineering related assessments. • Provides aerial photography assistance as necessary to provide damage documentation. • Assess infrastructure damages and assist with other damage assessment needs. • Provide engineering personnel for preliminary damage assessment reports and preparing project worksheets. • Provide engineering, mapping, and aerial photography assistance to local, Tribal, or state government entities. Maintenance Division • Issue approach permits for the construction of driveways and other approaches intersecting public streets and highways. • Utility Right of Way Forage Permit to individuals or entities seeking to remove forage materials from a specific right-of-way in Montana. • Ensure the safety of its infrastructures and the traveling public, maintain the operability of roadway systems and provide assistance and support to other state and federal agencies when applicable. • Remove debris from roadways, bridges, other infrastructure and assist other agencies with debris removal situations. Right-off-Way Bureau • Issues Utility Permit to utility companies that wish to locate facilities within MDT right-of-way and when utilities require relocation or modification because of conflicts with MDT projects. Motor Carrier Services Division • Issues permit commercial motor carriers who are transporting a load or have equipment that exceeds the legal width, length, height, or weight. • Implement the appropriate waiver of licensing, permitting, and registration of commercial and agricultural vehicles to promote the rapid movement of goods.
Governor's Office	Office of Budget and Program Planning • Monitor and manage the Governor's Disaster Fund • Authorize spending authority to any state agency from the Governor's Disaster Fund as requested by the Governor when an incident, emergency or disaster is declared. • Provide technical assistance to agencies regarding accounting practices related to expenses incurred during and incident, emergency, or disaster.

	• Ensure the appropriate accounting procedures are in place for tracking disaster expenses, requesting reimbursements, submitting budget change documents, requesting statutory authority or submitting supplemental appropriation requests. Office of Economic Development • Targets business retention and recruitment, workforce development, technology development, infrastructure improvement, and permitting and regulatory processes. • Advises the Governor on policy issues related to economic development. • Coordinates the development and distribution of a statewide strategic development plan. • Serves as the state's primary liaison with federal, state, and local agencies, Montana Tribal governments, private, nonprofit economic development organizations, and the private sector. • Serves (or appoints someone in the office to serve) on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission. • Serves on Communications Advisory Commission on broadband development.
Montana Arts Council	Craft Emergency Relief Fund • Provides direct financial and educational assistance to artists working in craft disciplines including emergency relief assistance, business development support, and resources and referrals on topics such as health, safety, and insurance. • Develops, promotes, and maintains resources for emergency readiness and recovery that benefit all artists.
Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance	• Regulates the insurance industry in Montana. • Serves as the official advocate for Montana consumers in disputes with their insurance company. • Provides outreach and education to consumers on insurance relative to disasters (e.g., flood insurance). • Provide advice to the SECC regarding insurance issues. • Provide field representatives to work with the public in designated incident, emergency, or disaster areas regarding insurance related issues. • Provide trained criminal investigators to assist with disaster fraud investigations. • Assist in controlling the unauthorized deployment of insurance company disaster teams into unsafe areas. • Provide consumer protection services and investigate complaints against insurance companies doing business in the State of Montana.
Montana Historical Society	State Historical Preservation Office • Provide research assistance on information about Montana and regional history. • Conducts and maintains a statewide survey to identify and document cultural resources.

	• Evaluates cultural resources for significance in consultation with property owners. • Assist state agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties and archaeological sites that may be affected by their projects. • Must be contacted in the event of a discovery of human skeletal remains, a burial site, or burial material. • Issues antiquities permit to those proposing to excavate, remove, or restore a heritage property or paleontological remains on state-owned land for scientific, educational, or mitigation purposes. • The 2021 Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, Montana SHPO, and Montana DES outline each party's roles and responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act.
Montana Public Service Commission	• Regulates the rates and services of privately owned public utilities. • Has authority to make inquiries into the management of public utilities. • Liaison between relief operations and utility and transportation companies.
Montana State Fund	• Provide expertise assessing the impact of an event with regard to work related injuries and loss control issues.
University Systems	Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, and Missoula Campuses • Provide assistance with assessing damaged facilities. Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, and Missoula Campuses • Provide engineering assistance with regard to technical structural issues.