

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program

Policy Amendment for Pre-emptive Actions

The Government of Manitoba has amended its policy for the reimbursement of costs for pre-emptive actions under an established Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program.

The Government of Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) states:

3.2 Pre-emptive action

3.2.1 In circumstances where danger to life and property is imminent, and instructions/orders are given by appropriate public authorities, costs for pre-emptive action may be eligible. This includes incremental public sector costs and significant out-of-pocket private sector costs that the province considers to merit support and that are covered by the provincial financial assistance program. However, members of the public and private sectors are expected to take reasonable measures, and absorb reasonable related costs, to protect themselves and their property. Examples of eligible expenses include material costs of sandbagging in the event of a flood and measures taken to protect life and property when a forest fire threatens an urban area.

3.2.2 Measures that would be or had been taken as a normal part of preparations to avoid or mitigate the effects of a future disaster prior to its onset are not eligible. Nor are eligible any expenses incurred for pre-emptive measures taken in the immediate pre-disaster period if for any reason a threatened disaster does not occur; they are solely the responsibility of the province incurring them.

In order to maximize cost-sharing under the federal DFAA the Government of Manitoba closely follows the DFAA requirements; however the following amended policy approach for pre-emptive actions has been implemented by the Government of Manitoba for all types of disasters and DFA programs effective January 1, 2016.

In situations where a DFA program has been established, pre-emptive actions will be eligible for reimbursement under the DFA program when all of the following conditions are met:

- Pre-emptive measures were undertaken based on a credible warning.
 - A warning is considered credible when provided by an official provincial or federal entity, such as the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization (EMO), Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation's Hydrologic Forecasting Centre and Environment Canada.
- The measures were reasonable in scope and scale to the disaster.
 - Claimants must submit with their DFA claim a clear explanation that demonstrates the actions were reasonable.
- The measures were taken during the imminent threat period of the disaster.

- Imminent threat period is defined as the timeframe between when the credible warning was provided up to the time the disaster actually occurs.
- The claimant advised Manitoba EMO of its intentions after the credible warning was given and before the measures were taken.
 - The claimant must notify Manitoba EMO in writing before the pre-emptive action is taken by sending an email to emo@gov.mb.ca.

In addition, if all of these conditions are met, the costs related to pre-emptive measures will be eligible under an established DFA program even if the forewarned disaster does not occur.

This policy amendment applies to both public and private sector DFA claims.