

CHAPTER S

Storm Damage and Other Major Damage

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S.01 Introduction

S.01.01 Chapter Content and Resources

This chapter contains information relevant to storm damage and other major damage including all damage repair and re-openings related to natural or man-made disasters, catastrophes, or events such as storms, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis (tidal waves), high surf, slope failures, or other geological phenomena.

For resources referenced within this chapter, please see the following:

Deputy Directives: [Deputy Directives | Administration \(ca.gov\)](#)

Emergency Operations Plan: [Manuals and Reference | Maintenance \(ca.gov\)](#)

Emergency Work Guidance: [Major Damage Restoration and Director's Orders | Maintenance \(ca.gov\)](#)

S1.01.02 Definitions

EO	Emergency Opening
IMMS	Integrated Maintenance Management System
PR	Permanent Restoration

S1.01.03 References and Hyperlinks

There are hyperlink resource materials identified within this chapter. If any hyperlink is not accessible, please notify the appropriate personnel to inquire about that resource or reference.

S1.01.04 Chapter Contact

This chapter of the Maintenance Manual is maintained by the Division of Maintenance, Office of Emergency Operations and Recovery.

S.02 Charging and Documentation Practices

In cases of significant damage, Project Numbers must be assigned, and Work Orders must be site specific when reporting storm damage and other major damage in the Integrated Maintenance Management System (IMMS).

Following established charging practices is critical to ensure full reimbursement from the federal government when disaster aid programs are in effect. Proper charging practices are required to meet federal regulations that specify minimum levels of cost tracking as a condition for receiving federal disaster aid. There is a direct relationship between the quality and accuracy of charging practices and the amount of reimbursement to district Maintenance.

Disaster declarations are often retroactive, so it is important to always use correct charging practices, whether or not a declared disaster is currently in effect. Charging practice instructions for storm damage and other major damage “S” Family, are included in Volume 2 of the

Maintenance Manual.

S.03 Photographs

If personal safety permits, take a photograph of the damage site prior to reopening the roadway or initiating repairs. A photograph can assist in the determination for reimbursement. Photos should be shared with the Maintenance Engineer and should include a record of the location and date.

S.04 Major Damage Response Phases

There are two phases to storm damage and other major damage response: Emergency Opening (EO) and Permanent Restoration (PR).

Emergency Opening includes first responder operations at the damage site performed to enhance safety for travelers and workers, reopening of closed facilities to at least partial service, establishment of traffic control and detours, and prevention of additional damage if there is an immediate threat.

Permanent Restoration includes repair work to restore the damaged facility to its pre-event condition. Improvements, or betterments, may be included as part of Permanent Restoration if the purpose of the improvement or betterment is to prevent recurring damage.

Strategies for responding and repairing damaged facilities include:

- (1) **State Forces:**
The Maintenance crew(s) perform all reopening and repair activities with State forces and State equipment. This is commonly used for smaller damage sites (small slide repair, rock fall removal, debris removal, shoulder backing restoration, etc.).
- (2) **Split Strategy:**
The Maintenance crew(s) perform EO activities to reopen the facility partially or fully. Once secured, the site is left unrepaired until a capital contractor completes the Permanent Restoration project later. This is frequently used for larger damage locations.
- (3) **Combined Strategy:**
The Maintenance crew(s) respond initially but, because the damage is too large or costly, the EO work is completed by a capital contractor (typically by Director's Order). With the Combined Strategy, the EO and PR work is completed in one step by the same contractor. The combined strategy is only used when it is economically advantageous due to there being no clear "break" between EO and PR work. An example is a complete washout of the whole traveled way. Once the contractor restores the sub grade, it is usually more efficient to continue to pave and stripe, rather than separate the work into a separate EO and PR contracts.

S.05 Major Damage Repairs by Contract

Caltrans has mechanisms to fund major damage repairs by contract. Maintenance Superintendents should use their best judgment to determine if damage repairs are best done by capital contract. Damage repairs that need an engineered solution, consume too much of the crew's time, or require extensive equipment rental, should be considered for completion by capital contract.

Types of contracts available are listed for information only. Capital contracts are generally handled by the district office, except for Equipment Rental (Item number 3 below):

- (1) Director's Orders:
Emergency contracts, approved by Headquarters, initiated by Maintenance but administered by Construction. See Deputy Directive DD-26-R2.
- (2) Emergency Public Works Contracts ("Minor B"):
Emergency capital contracts below the cost threshold (currently \$388,000) for a Director's Order are delegated to the district. Refer to your district policies and procedures for District Director's Orders.
- (3) Emergency Equipment Rental Contract:
Emergency Equipment Rental Contracts may or may not be capital funded on case-by-case basis, and may only be used for debris removal, basin cleanout, culvert unplugging, or non-engineered excavation/backfill. Do not use Equipment Rental Contracts to construct repairs. These contracts do not have the correct language for general construction. Emergency Equipment Rental Contracts may also include dump fees. State law requires that Emergency Equipment Rental Contracts have a term not exceeding 60 days.
- (4) Form 42 Emergency Materials Procurement:
Innovative procurement-in-place methods may be made available following declared disasters. A Governor's Executive Order is generally required for emergency materials procurement. Non-disaster Form 42 procurement is possible on a case-by-case basis but requires Department of General Services approval via the Division of Procurement and Contracts.

S.06 Timely Reporting of Damage

Prompt reporting of damage through your established chain of command is essential to ensure the most timely and efficient response. Refer to the ***Emergency Work Guidance***, provided in Section [S.01.01](#) of this chapter, for more information.

S.07 Day Labor Limit

State law prohibits State forces from performing certain types of project work in excess of \$25,000 per project. Storm Damage and Other Major Damage is not subject to this prohibition. The \$25,000 limit does not apply to "S" Activity work.