



Joint Information Center - JIC Recovery Release No. 3
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JIC Aware of Viral Message Circulating

The Joint Information Center (JIC) is aware of a viral message circulating on WhatsApp regarding Individual Assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Governor Lou Leon Guerrero's request for an emergency declaration. Immediately after the typhoon Governor Leon Guerrero requested a Major Disaster Declaration which was approved and granted today. A Major Disaster Declaration allows the Government of Guam and eligible non-profit organizations to be reimbursed for emergency protective measures under the Public Assistance program.

With an approved Major Disaster Declaration we can begin the multi-step process of applying for Individual Assistance.

FEMA's Incident Management Assistance Team arrived on the island prior to the typhoon's landfall at the request of the Governor. More teams are arriving to conduct damage assessments, in conjunction with government of Guam officials, which is a standard process. These assessments will take into account damage to homes and public infrastructure. After that assessment is completed, the government of Guam can use the data to determine if the recovery process is beyond the combined capabilities of the government. If so, an official request can be made for additional federal assistance, such as Individual Assistance, which provides grants for homeowners and renters like rental assistance and money for home repairs.

Although the viral message circulating is inaccurate, it is still a good preparedness practice to take before and after pictures of your property for insurance purposes and in the event assistance is available in the future.

Visit the following links for the latest advisory information:

- GHS/OCD Website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>
- GHS/OCD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>
- JRM Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam>

The Joint Information Center (JIC) will continue to provide updates as they are made available. Contact the JIC at (671) 478-0208/09/10 for more information.

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