

# TYPES OF DISASTERS

In the event of a disaster the **Commodity Distribution Program** releases USDA Foods in order to provide mass feeding.

There are **two types of disasters** where USDA Foods may be utilized.



## 1. **Presidentially Declared Disaster**

When a state determines a need for federal disaster assistance, the Governor requests assistance from the President. Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) evaluation and recommendation a formal Presidential Major disaster or Emergency declaration is made and resources of the Federal government become available.

- A **major disaster declaration** provides a full range of long-term Federal assistance programs for individuals and families.
- An **emergency declaration** is more limited in scope, and without some of the long-term Federal recovery programs available in a major disaster declaration.

FNS guarantees replacement of USDA Foods and TEFAP or CSFP products that are used during Presidential disasters and emergencies for congregate feeding or disaster household distribution.

## 2. **Situations of Distress**

A situation of distress is when a natural catastrophe or other situation has not been declared a disaster or emergency by the President, but may warrant the use of USDA Foods.

During situations of distress USDA Foods may be replaced only to the extent that FNS funds are available.

Food & Nutrition Division | [www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)  
Food Assistance for Disaster Relief Program



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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This product was funded by USDA.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

