

Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission  
OMB Control Number 3245-0136  
SBA Form 987, Disaster Survey Worksheet

The purpose of this submission is to request OMB renewal of the SBA Form 987, "Disaster Survey Worksheet." No substantive changes were made to the SBA Form 987 since the last submission.

A. Justification

1. *Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.*

The Small Business Administration (SBA or Agency) is authorized to make loans to disaster survivors for the purpose of restoring their damaged property to, as near as possible, pre-disaster conditions. See 15 U.S.C. 636 (b) and implementing regulations at 13 CFR Part 123. (Copies of the pertinent provisions are attached.) A disaster declaration, which can be issued by either the President or the SBA Administrator, is a prerequisite to the availability of any disaster loan assistance.

2. *Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.*

The Disaster Survey Worksheet (SBA Form 987) is completed in support of the State's request for either a Presidential declaration or an Agency declaration. When the request is for a Presidential declaration, SBA is included in the survey teams under the direction of FEMA and would complete the worksheet to establish eligibility for the Agency declaration if the request for a Presidential declaration is declined. SBA Form 987 is used by SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance (ODA) staff to record information regarding disaster damage. The information is gathered by questioning affected individuals about the extent of their damage and potential insurance recovery for Presidential and Agency declarations. State and local officials are also questioned to obtain information helpful for the decision process including address of the damaged property, type, replacement value, loss amount, insurance amount, and uninsured loss information. With this information, ODA determines if sufficient damage has occurred to warrant a disaster declaration by the Administrator of SBA.

3. *Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce the burden.*

Although information is collected from the public, the SBA 987 is not filled out by the public but rather by ODA representatives based on information gathered during interviews with members of the public and State government officials after a disaster has occurred. For Preliminary Damage Assessment/Surveys, SBA participates with FEMA and the state only. Generally, local officials (County and/or State) participate in this process. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions and recommendations, remote Virtual Desktop PDA/Surveys are performed using specific damage assessment spreadsheets, photos of damage and databases provided by the State. Once these restrictions are lifted, the State and or FEMA may revert back to on-the-ground PDAs. Data needed for the SBA 987 is gathered and entered via laptops through a web-based system known as Salesforce which is the platform used for the Disaster Credit Management System (DCMS). DCMS is the system that supports all ODA loan-processing activities.

4. *Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in item 2 above.*

SBA collaborates and consults with other Federal Agencies to ensure duplicate information is not unnecessarily collected. The information needed to issue a declaration is unique to each disaster; therefore, any existing information cannot be used as a basis for a decision about a particular disaster event. Although there is similar information and some overlap, the information is collected for different purposes (e.g., FEMA does not collect business information). FEMA survey data in general cannot be repurposed for SBA use due to the fact that each agency has different program criteria and categories of damage for evaluating disaster related damages.

5. *If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.*

Small businesses or small entities comprise a portion of the respondent sample. There is no significant economic impact on them. Where possible, a visual inspection is made to obtain the information needed to complete the survey without the need to question the affected party. However, we must validate that the minimum criterion for a disaster declaration is met (i.e., 25 homes or **businesses that have each sustained uninsured losses of at least 40%**). When this is not possible, questions are limited to very general information about damage sustained and insurance coverage in effect.

6. *Describe the consequence to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.*

If the information were not collected, ODA could not process disaster declaration requests because there would be no basis upon which to determine if sufficient damage has occurred to warrant a declaration by the SBA Administrator. Since this information is collected only after a written request for a disaster declaration is made by the Governor or authorized representative of the affected state, it cannot be collected less frequently.

7. *Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be*

*conducted in a manner, etc.*

There are no special circumstances.

8. *If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views.*

Comments were solicited in a Federal Register notice published on November 17, 2020, in Volume 85 FR 73333, copy attached. The comment period closed on January 19, 2021, and no comments were received.

9. *Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.*

There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. *Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.*

The information is not specifically linked to any person or entity nor is it retrieved by a personal identifier. There is no assurance of confidentiality; however, the information includes material that may be deemed personal and/or confidential, which will be protected to the extent permitted under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act. (5 U.S.C. 552a).

11. *Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, specific uses to be made of the information, explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.*

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. *Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information, well as the hour cost burden. Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour and cost burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated.*

We estimate that an average of 40 individuals and businesses are queried regarding damage to their property per survey. This is the average number of queries needed to adequately determine whether the minimum qualifying criteria has been met (or not met). It takes an estimated 5 minutes per response, which is based on the actual experience of employees in the field who ask these questions.

The hour burden is based on survey activity for the 3 most recent fiscal years (FY 18, 19,

and 20). Requests for Presidential and SBA Administrative declarations (both declined and approved) are calculated as these are the declaration types that require surveys. In the breakdown below, declines are listed separately because we track them separately; however, they are essentially either Presidential or Administrative declaration requests that were declined rather than approved, based on the criteria not being met.

<u>FY</u>	<u>Presidential Declarations</u>	<u>SBA Administrative Declarations</u>	<u>Presidential &amp; Administrative Declines</u>	<u>Total Surveys</u>
18	13	35	0	48
19	16	57	0	73
20	16	50	0	66

Total surveys past 3 FYs = 187 divided by 3 = **62** average surveys per year

**62** surveys x 40 respondents per survey = **2,480 responses**  
**2,480** responses x .083 (5 minutes) per response = **206 hours**

There are minimal financial costs to respondents. The cost estimate is based on a GS-5, Step 1 (\$16.90 per hour/RUS Locality), which is the level of expertise (minimal) that is required to respond to simple questions. The annual cost is calculated below:

**206** hours x \$16.90 per hour = **\$3,481 annual cost to respondents**

13. *Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. Do not include hour cost burden from above.*

There are no additional costs beyond that identified in Item 12 above.

14. *Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal Government. Also provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, including a quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.*

We estimate that it takes approximately 10 hours to survey all respondents per disaster declaration request. This information is based on actual experience. Agency burden hours are calculated below:

**62** surveys x 10 hours per survey = **620 Agency burden hours**

The annual cost estimate for the Agency is based on the salary of a GS-11, Step 1, (\$30.98 per hour/RUS Locality), which is the typical grade for an employee performing these surveys. The cost is calculated as follows:

**620** total hours x 30.98 per hour = **\$19,207 Cost to the Government**

15. *Explain reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of*

*the OMB Form 83-I.*

The public hour burden decreased slightly due to a decrease in the number of surveys conducted during the most recent three fiscal years.

16. *For collection of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address complex analytical techniques. Provide time schedules for the entire project.*

No publication is anticipated.

17. *If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why the display would be inappropriate.*

ODA will display the expiration date.

18. *Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission," of OMB Form 83-I.*

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

- B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

N/A