



## Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Question: As a supervisor of a FAST member, am I required to release my staff to respond to an emergency?

Answer: As a supervisor of a FAST member, you always have the choice of not releasing your staff if his/her regular duties require him/her to stay in their normal position.

2. Question: Why do I have to sign the application for my staff to attend the training?

Answer: Signing the application acknowledges that you and your employee have read and discussed information about FAST and that you agree to let your staff attend the training and serve as a FAST member.

3. Question: What is a FAST and what is its purpose?

Answer: FAST is a team of 2-8 trained members that will deploy to community shelters to conduct functional assessments of people with access and functional needs as they arrive at the shelters. FAST members also determine what resources people with access and functional needs need so they can remain at the shelter. FASTs deploy as requested to shelters and remain there until the need ends. FASTs may transfer to other shelters and will return to shelters as needed or requested.

4. Question: What qualifications do you need to become a FAST member?

Answer: FAST members must possess the knowledge, skills, and ability to work in their area of expertise, as well as a minimum of two years experience working with and assessing people with access and functional needs.

FAST consist of members with experience in the following areas:

- Aging (services/supports, including dietary needs).
- Chronic health conditions.
- Developmental and other cognitive disabilities.
- Hearing or vision loss.
- Behavioral health needs.
- Physical concerns.
- Other needs people might have in communications; maintaining health; independence; safety, support, and self-determination; and transportation during a disaster.

5. Question: What and/or who makes up a FAST?

Answer: A FAST consists of trained government employees and non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel ready to respond and deploy to disaster areas to work in shelters.

6. Question: What are the responsibilities of a FAST?

Answer: FASTs will work side by side with shelter personnel and other emergency response workers to assist in identifying and meeting essential functional needs so that people with access and functional needs can maintain their health, safety, and independence during disasters. FASTs will act to get durable medical equipment (DME), durable medical supplies (DMS), prescribed medications, or a personal assistant to assist with essential activities of daily living.

7. Question: How do I become a FAST member?

Answer: You will register for one of the FAST training events posted on the Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) training calendar at <https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/Schedule>. We will send you a FAST application to complete. We will notify you once we have approved your application. If you complete and pass the training, you will go through a background check, register with the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR), and then you will receive a FAST badge.

8. Question: What training will I receive for FAST duties?

Answer: We will offer initial FAST training opportunities at locations throughout the state. Refer to the training bulletins and the WEM training schedule at: <https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/Schedule>. It is anticipated that this training will be recurring.

9. Question: Will I be on a FAST in the county I work or where I took the training

Answer: The intention of providing trainings is to develop county, regional, and state teams. Once you complete your training, background check, and WEAVR registration, you can expect to be a FAST member in your home county. If you are from a private non-profit and you work for a county that does not have FAST, you may be called upon to deploy as part of a FAST from a neighboring county or with a FAST that is being deployed by the state.

10. Question: Am I paid while deployed on FAST assignment?

Answer: If you are a government employee, your pay status will be based on your department/agency's policies/labor agreements. If you are an employee of an NGO, it is up to your organization to determine pay status. The Stafford Act allows reimbursement to government entities at a 75/25 cost share of emergency response costs for presidential declaration.

11. Question: Do I have worker's compensation insurance protection while I am deployed as a FAST member?

Answer: If you are a government employee, workers compensation insurance is a benefit that your employing department offers as a condition of your employment. You should establish with your employer that your coverage under the worker's compensation policy applies when you deploy as a FAST member. The same is true if you are an employee of an NGO. Since the duties that FAST members perform may be different from the normal duties you perform as part of your employment, you should check to make sure that you have protection under your department or organization's worker's compensation policy.

If you are a licensed health professional deploying strictly as a volunteer in a declared emergency, your WEAVR registration provides you with worker's compensation coverage. For more details, refer to Chapter 257 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 323 of the Wisconsin Statutes addresses additional standards for worker's compensation coverage for authorized volunteers.

12. Question: How long and where will I work when I deploy with FAST?

Answer: FAST deployments will normally be within your own jurisdiction and will typically not last more than a few days. During a catastrophic disaster, FAST members may deploy outside of their jurisdictions for up to 15 days.

13. Question: Are there any prerequisites for the FAST training?

Answer: We highly recommend completion of IS 100, 200, 700 and 800 before taking the FAST training class so that you have some familiarity with emergency management language and acronyms. The classes are free and available online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>.

14. Question: Are there any costs related to the training?

Answer: The training is free. Accommodations are provided for one night for individuals traveling over 50 miles. Other travel-related expenses are the responsibility of the participant or his or her department/organization.

15. Question: What clearance or permission do I need to have in order to take the training or to respond to a disaster as a FAST member?

Answer: The application to take the training requires that the supervisor sign the application as an approval to attend the training and as an acknowledgement of recognition of what committing to be a FAST member entails.

16. Question: Do I have to have a background check to become a FAST member?

Answer: Yes, to receive certification and credentialing as a FAST member, you must complete a background check. A felony conviction or any sexual offense will disqualify FAST members.

17. Question: Do I have to wear a uniform?

Answer: Upon completion of the certification process, FAST members will receive a badge that will be required for easy identification within the shelter during FAST deployment. We strongly recommend counties also provide their FAST members with labeled vests to wear when deployed.

