

Mobile Solution for Assessment & Reporting (MSAR) Application

Background and Status

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) required an electronic, secure, and scalable solution to replace the paper assessment and inspection reporting processes that support the Emergency Relief (ER) and Emergency Relief for Federally-owned Roads (ERFO) Programs. The MSAR software was developed by FHWA to provide a range of stakeholders, e.g., State Departments of Transportation, Federal Land Management Agencies, tribal governments, and FHWA, with a modern interconnected tool for damage data collection, review, approvals, and reporting related to disaster events. MSAR is a two-part software system consisting of a mobile application (MSAR24) and web portal to make disaster data collection and program processes faster, more accurate, and more efficient to support recovery of transportation systems during disasters.

MSAR was successfully piloted in 2016 and received authority to operate in November 2016. MSAR has updated the system platform and mobile app several times to align with industry advances and user requests. Currently, MSAR is being utilized regularly by FHWA and partners in multiple states to rapidly deploy and perform disaster assessment, damage inspection, and reporting to support the ER and ERFO programs. MSAR is the required documentation system for all ERFO events and partners.

Benefits

- Mobile app allows field personnel to rapidly deploy and perform Damage Assessments, write Detail Damage Inspection Reports, anytime, anywhere with mobile devices to assist Federal Lands Management Agencies and States in the event of a disaster.
- Utilizes off the shelf, widely available mobile devices and operating systems.
- Enables collection of data in a variety of formats including photos, voice, and geolocation information at the scene of a disaster or incident that has negatively impacted transportation.
- Provides management, program officials, and field staff information in near real-time to support prompt decision making and accelerate disaster declaration and funding.
- Provides a consolidated data source for information at the disaster, program, partner, unit, and site levels.
- Facilitates collaboration, standardization, and oversight of activities to ensure compliance with regulations.
- Cloud-based Web Portal application provides integrated User Management, Workflow, Approvals, Reports, and Dashboards
- Secure access and data for a variety of users including DOT, Federal, State, Local agency, and Tribal users.

Technical Specifications

The MSAR software includes:

- Cloud based web-portal can be used with a variety of common web browsers such as Google Chrome and Edge.
- MSAR24 Mobile app is designed and supported for both IOS and Android operating systems for the versions shown below:

IOS OS	MSAR24
14.4	✓
15.x	✓
16.x	✓
17.x	✓

Android OS	MSAR24
11	✓
13	✓
14	✓

System Limitations

As of now “MSAR24” Mobile app is not supported if a user’s internet service provider or mobile carrier is Xfinity due to security settings on the provider’s network. In the interim, these alternate options can be considered: 1) Connect to a non-Xfinity CSP/ISP, 2) Use an Android device, 3) Use a VPN

For More Information

Use of this application requires authorization, please contact MSARsupport@dot.gov for general inquiries, helpdesk support for MSAR users, or to request MSAR access.

The MSAR System owner is Alex Appel, Emergency Relief Program Team Leader • HISM10 - Office of Stewardship, Oversight, and Management at (202) 366-4652 and/or Alex.Appel@dot.gov