

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL

Frequently Asked Questions

January 23, 2007

The following relates to debris management issues following a disaster or emergency AND when a Federal Disaster has been declared.

Q: How does my community get FEMA funding for debris removal?

A: *Local governments and other eligible applicants should contact their State's Emergency Management officials to discuss obtaining, completing and submitting a "Request for Public Assistance" form. Upon receipt of this request form from the State, FEMA will assign a Public Assistance Coordinator (PAC) to work with each applicant.*

Q: Are there specialists that can help my community manage its debris issues?

A: *Yes. FEMA has debris specialists that can be mobilized to a declared disaster location to assist applicants with debris management. Contact your State or Tribal Emergency Management Office for assistance.*

Q: Are the costs of contract monitoring eligible for FEMA funding?

A: *Yes. Overtime incurred by applicant forces, reasonable costs for contracted debris monitoring services, and costs for temporary monitors hired by the applicant, are eligible for FEMA reimbursement.*

Q: If I have an existing T&M contract in place, can I convert it to unit price after 70 hours without rebidding?

A: *No. The T&M contract must be competitively rebid on a unit price basis. However, if a few hours of work remain, an extension may be provided in order to complete the work.*

Q: Does FEMA pay for debris removal on privately owned land?

A: *Generally, no; however, disaster-related debris removed from private property and brought to the curbside for public pickup is usually covered. This issue will be discussed in detail during applicant briefings and kick-off meetings with Federal, State and chief elected officials. NOTE: The debris that is brought to the curb or public right-of-way should only be debris that is a health and/or safety issue for the primary residence.*

Q: Where can I find information about removing debris from private property?

A: *Contact the State Public Assistance Section at (405) 521-2481 or email kathleen.shingledecker@oem.ok.gov with your questions.*

Q: Does FEMA have to approve my debris removal and disposal contracts?

A: *No. FEMA does not approve contracts; however, FEMA can provide technical assistance to applicants regarding proper contracting procedures. Prior to contract execution, it is recommended that you provide a copy of your contract to the State Emergency Management Office and FEMA.*

Q: Is debris generated by post-disaster reconstruction activities eligible?

A: *No. This type of debris is the owner's responsibility and generally covered by insurance.*

Q: How can applicants use personnel and local funding for debris removal and have those costs eligible for reimbursement?

A: *Applicants may use their own forces or contract for debris removal and disposal work. When utilizing contractors, applicants should follow proper contracting procedures to ensure maximum reimbursement for eligible work.*

Q: As a city or county official, do I need to be concerned about piling the debris in an area for burning or chipping?

A: *Yes. You must coordinate with the Department of Environmental Quality and your Flood Plain Manager for guidance on temporary storage and final debris location.*

Q: Are there any environmental procedures or policies that impact debris removal operations in my community?

A: *Yes. Check with Department of Environmental Quality for environmental procedures/policies for your community.*

Q: Am I responsible for monitoring debris removal and disposal operations at the local level?

A: *Monitoring of debris removal and disposal contractor activities is a critical component in successful debris operations and in the justification and documentation of any application for FEMA Public Assistance funding. The applicant should have a debris monitoring plan to facilitate this process and should deploy trained debris monitors to observe and document contractor activities.*

Q: How should I, as a city or community official, start debris clearance operations immediately after a disaster or emergency occurs and in the absence of a federal disaster declaration?

A: *Follow your standard operating procedures and maintain accurate records on labor, equipment and material (including any receipts, etc.).*

Q: Can I rent or buy a wood chipper or tub grinder and get reimbursed by the State or FEMA?

A: *When an applicant does not have sufficient equipment or supplies to respond, FEMA or the State may assist in purchasing the needed equipment and supplies. However, the applicant may be required to compensate FEMA and the State for the fair market value of the cost.*

Q: Is debris removal from my private property an eligible expense of my homeowner's insurance policy?

A: *As homeowners' policies vary, please read your policy. If debris removal is an eligible expense in your policy, it will include hauling away the debris, not simply moving it to public right-of-way.*