

Public Assistance 101

An Introduction and Overview of Category A: Debris Removal



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Public Assistance 101: Debris Removal

FEMA Public Assistance may fund the removal of debris and associated operations when that debris is a direct result of a federally declared event and is impacting the community.

Debris includes, but is not limited to, vegetative debris, construction and demolition debris, sand, mud, silt, gravel, rocks, boulders, white goods, and vehicle and vessel wreckage.



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Public Assistance 101: Debris Removal

- Planning P. 4
- Eligibility P.14
- Estimating P.39
- Monitoring P.47
- Procurement and Contracting P.57
- Special Considerations P.65
- Special Situations P.73

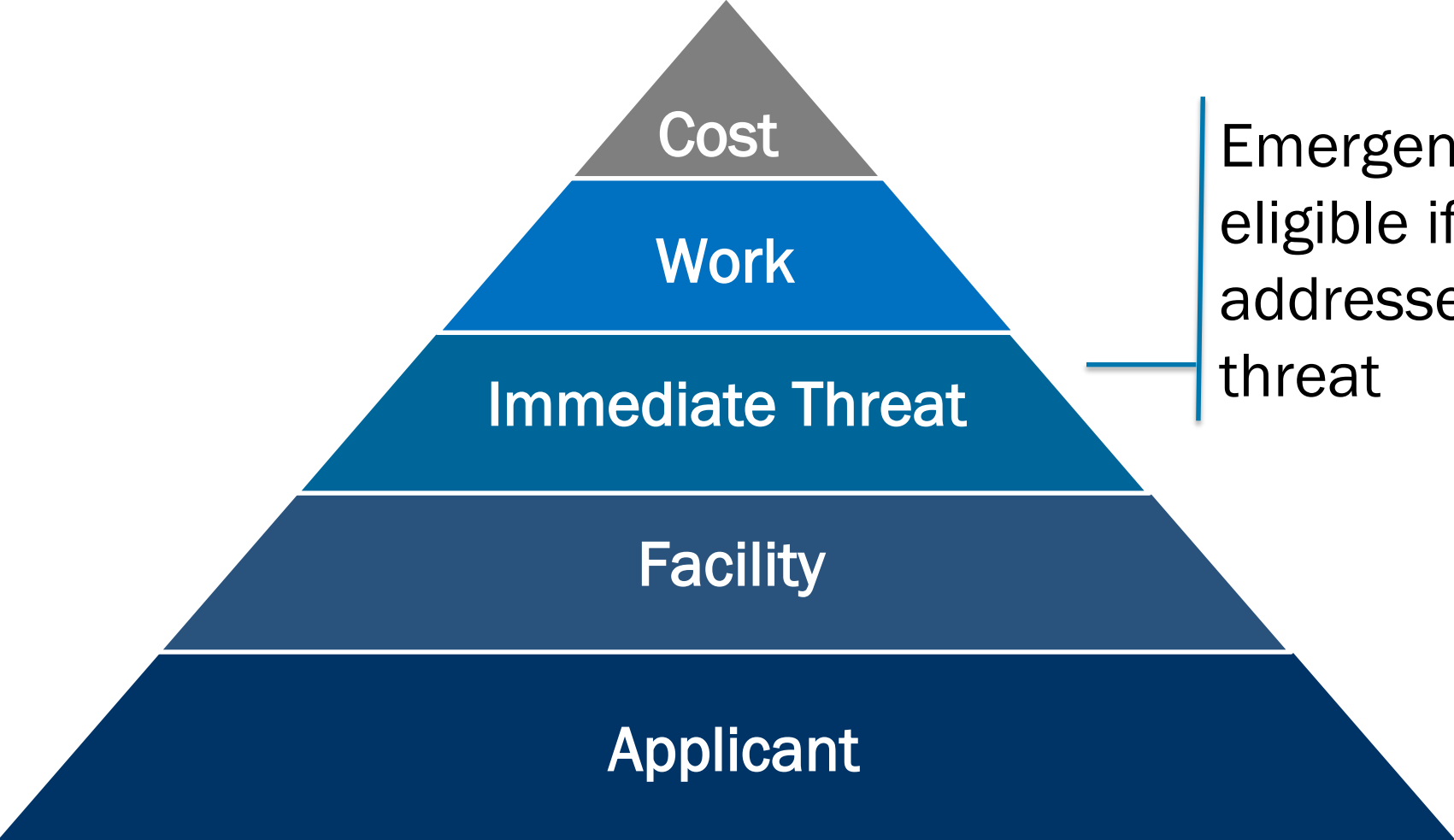


Debris Removal Eligibility



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Public Assistance Eligibility Pyramid



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Immediate Threat Criteria



- Save lives;
- Protect public health and safety;
- Protect improved property; or
- Eliminate or lessen an immediate threat of additional damage



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Minimum Work Eligibility Criteria



- Required as a result of the disaster
- Located within the designated area
- The legal responsibility of an eligible Applicant



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Basic Work Eligibility Criteria



- Disaster-related debris is generally eligible
- Must be closely managed by applicant and have established limits
- Must be separated from normal garbage pickup and other ineligible debris removal



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Regulatory Project Deadlines



Per 44 CFR 206.204(c)(1) all work for PA-funded Debris Removal projects must be completed within the following time limitations:

Deadlines for Completing Work	
Type of Work	Months
Emergency Work	6

Why is this so important?
What are the potential impacts of not meeting this deadline?

Under 44 CFR §206.204(c)(2)(ii) and §206.204(d) time extensions may be possible based on extenuating circumstances or unusual project requirements beyond the control of the subrecipient.



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Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal



Reimbursement of Straight-Time for Force Account Labor

- The Applicant may elect to participate in the Alternative Procedures for debris removal and receive reimbursement for straight-time for the Applicant's budgeted employees that conduct debris removal activities.
- This applies to both large and small grants.



PAPPG Reference v4: See page 101 for more information



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Debris Removal



Eligible debris removal:

- Eliminates immediate threats to lives, public health, and safety
- Eliminates immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property
- Ensures economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large



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Debris Removal



- Ineligible debris removal:
 - From navigable channels and waterways
 - From agricultural lands
 - Debris from previous events
 - Debris in unmaintained areas
 - Debris from commercial properties



placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up.



- VEGETATIVE DEBRIS**
- Leaves (do not put in bags)
 - Logs
 - Plants
 - Tree branches



- CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS**
- Building materials
 - Carpet
 - Drywall
 - Furniture
 - Lumber
 - Mattresses
 - Plumbing



- APPLIANCES & WHITE GOODS**
- Air conditioners
 - Dishwashers
 - Freezers
 - Refrigerators
 - Stoves
 - Washers, dryers
 - Water heaters



- ELECTRONICS**
- Computers
 - Radios
 - Stereos
 - Televisions
 - Other devices with a cord



- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**
- Cleaning supplies
 - Batteries
 - Lawn chemicals
 - Oils
 - Oil-based paints and stains
 - Pesticides

Types of debris removed that could be eligible

Vegetative Debris

- Vegetative debris on public property and rights-of-way
- Hazardous trees
- Hazardous limbs
- Hazardous stumps



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Hazardous Trees

- Must meet all of the following criteria:
 - Condition was caused by the disaster
 - Present an immediate threat
 - Measure 6 inches in diameter or greater at 4.5 feet above ground level



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Hazardous Trees (Cont'd)

- Additionally - tree must meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - More than 50 percent of crown is damaged or destroyed
 - Has split trunk or broken branches exposing the heartwood
 - Has fallen or been uprooted in a public-use area
 - Leaning at an angle of greater than 30 degrees and shows evidence of ground disturbance



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Hazardous Limbs



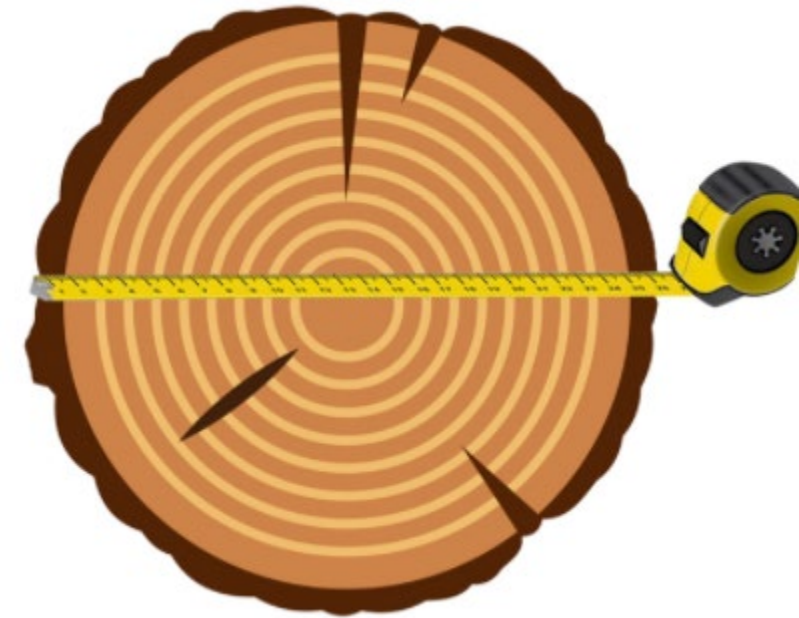
- Must be located on improved public property
- Limb must be greater than two inches in diameter at point of breakage
- Limb must still be hanging in tree and threatening a public-use area



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Hazardous Stumps

- Must have 50 percent or more of the root ball exposed
- Must be greater than 24 inches in diameter, measured 24 inches above the ground
- Must be on improved public property or a public right-of-way
- Must pose an immediate threat



Debris Removal

Estimating Debris



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Quantifying Debris



- Define the area
- Comprehensive measurement or representative sample
- Equipment used to quantify
- Coordinate with State and FEMA
- Include all eligible debris that will likely be placed on right-of-way
- Account for volume changes
- Generally, treat debris piles as cubes, not cones



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Handy Estimates

Debris quantity estimates should note types of debris and quantities, in cubic yards (CY).

Verify provided estimates through sampling

- Pace off debris piles: 1 pace = 2 or 3 ft
- Washing machine is approximately 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft / 27 = 1 CY
- One acre of debris, piled about 3.33 yards high = 16,117 CY
- Heavy vegetative debris around a residence = 15 to 25 CY of Debris



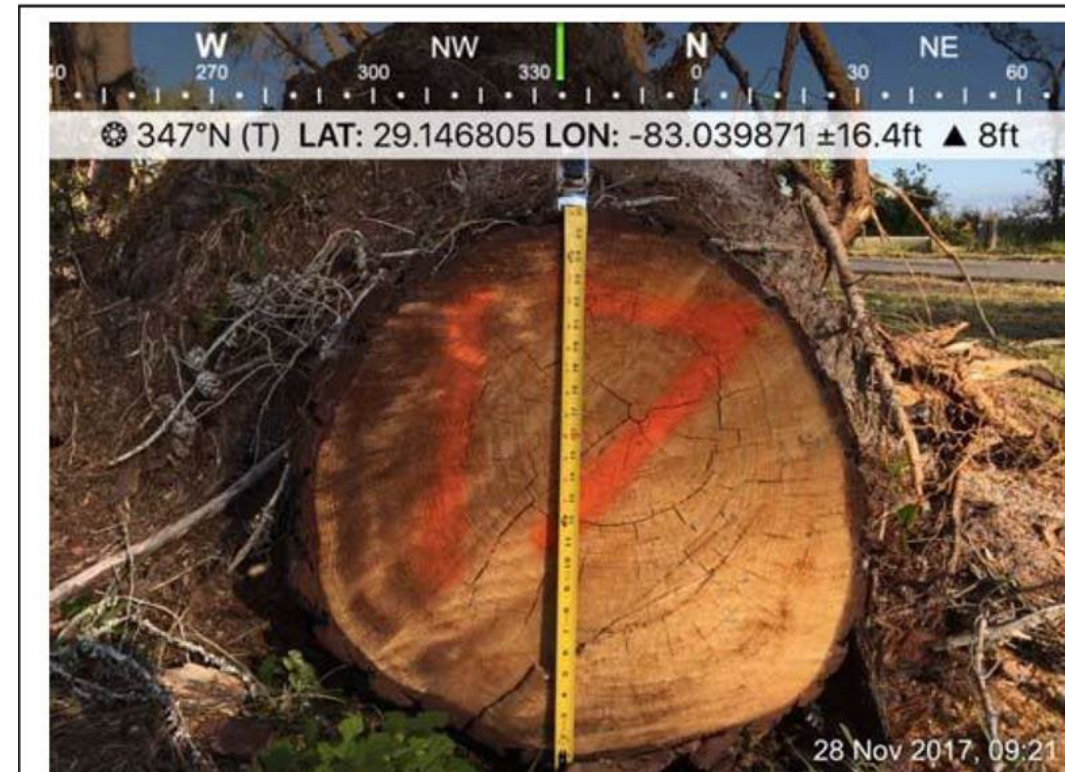
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Handy Estimates

Debris quantity estimates should note types of debris and quantities, in cubic yards (CY).

Verify provided estimates through sampling

- Small Tree (<12in diameter) = 6 CY
- Medium tree (<24in diameter) = 24 CY
- Large tree (>36in diameter) = 54 CY



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Debris Forecasting Historical Values

- Mobile home
 - Single wide = 290 CY
 - Double wide = 415 CY
- Flooded homes - personal property on right of way
 - Slab on grade home 25-30 CY
 - Home with basement 45-50 CY



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Approximate Conversions

- Construction and demolition debris
 - 1 ton = 2 CY
- Mixed debris
 - 1 ton = 4 CY
- Vegetative debris
 - Hardwoods: 1 ton = 4 CY
 - Softwoods: 1 ton = 6 CY

- Demolition of a one-story building:

$$\frac{L' * W' * H'}{27} = \text{CY} * .33 = \text{CY}$$

- Debris piles:

$$\frac{L' * W' * H'}{27} = \text{CY}$$



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Debris Removal Monitoring



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Debris Monitoring Work Eligibility

- FEMA requires the Applicant to monitor all contracted debris operations to document and ensure that its contractor removes eligible debris.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring debris-related activities comply with all requirements
- Reasonable and necessary debris monitoring activities to ensure compliance may be eligible reimbursement
- Review reasonable level of effort guidance



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Importance of Debris Monitoring

Substantiate PA Program funding

- Document compliance with Federal, State, and local requirements
- Establish reporting mechanisms



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Applicant Debris Monitoring Role

Ensure work funded under PA Program is eligible in accordance with FEMA guidelines

- Gather documentation necessary to support PA Program funding request
- Oversight and quality assurance of debris removal work
- Document **ALL** monitoring efforts



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Debris Collection and Disposal Site Monitoring

- Comprehensive observation
- Coordinate with State and FEMA personnel
- Document monitoring activities
- Measure truck capacities for certifications
- Manage load tickets and reverify truck certifications
- Comply with monitoring health and safety requirements
- Document all monitoring efforts



Monitoring Documentation

- Identification of information to be gathered
- Standard reporting format
- Load tickets used to track debris quantities and types from point to point
- All monitoring efforts should have supporting documentation



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Truck Inspection Considerations

- Missing or nonstructural tailgate
- Can only claim up to a maximum of 85 percent of the truck's certified capacity



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Truck Loading Considerations

- Hand loaded vs. mechanically loaded
- For Vegetative debris, can only claim up to a maximum of 50 percent for hand loaded trucks and trailers



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Debris Removal

Procurement and Contracting



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

57

Procurement

- Procurement is the process of finding and agreeing to terms, and acquiring goods, services, or works from an external source, often via a tendering or competitive bidding process.



Procurement Requirements

- Noncompliance may violate the FEMA-State Agreement and could result in financial consequences, including the deobligation of funds.
 - Non-compliance has also been the subject of many Office of the Inspector General Audits.



The pre-disaster procurement policy is CRITICAL to the grant process



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Common Contracting and Non-compliance Issues

- Unreasonable costs
- Failure to separate eligible and ineligible work
- Incomplete or vague scopes of work
- Failure to monitor or document contract work
- Non-Compliance with procurement requirements like:
 - The use of noncompetitive contracting practices
 - Failure to include required contract provisions
 - Failure to ensure small/minority/women-owned firms are given an opportunity
 - The use of cost-plus-percentage-of-cost contracting



Procurement Support

- FEMA's Office of the Chief Counsel established the Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) in 2014 to assist disaster assistance applicants with adhering to the Federal procurement standards.
 - Recipients and Applicants must comply with the federal procurement rules when procuring goods and services using federal grant funds



CFR Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 - 326.



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Special Considerations



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Insurance

- An Applicant's insurance policies must be provided to ensure there's no duplication of benefits
 - Must also provide any third-party insurance policies if applicable



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Environmental and Historic Preservation Laws

- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Coastal Barrier Resources Act
- Endangered Species Act
- EO 11988 – Floodplain Management
- EO 11990 – Protection of Wetlands



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Potential and Common EHP Triggers

- Permits
- Staging Areas
- Burning/debris disposal
- Missing documentation
- Land clearing
- Work in or near water
- Work affecting endangered species or their habitat



EHP Greensheets

- Provide guidance to communities on the FEMA EHP review process for those seeking project funding from FEMA after a disaster
- Each Green sheet typically includes:
 - Key Federal and State POCs for the DR
 - Environmental laws and project requirements specific to the designated disaster area
 - Any known threatened or endangered species, protected areas, or historic facilities



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EHP Consultation

- FEMA is required to ensure proper consultation with Federal, State, Territorial, and Tribal government resource agencies before the Applicant begins work
- For buildings and ground disturbing activities, FEMA is required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
- For endangered species, FEMA consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service



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Special Situations



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Other Federal Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- May be invested with authorities to address debris-related activities
- May be tasked by FEMA under a Mission Assignment
- Participate in FEMA Interagency Debris Management Task Force



Debris Removal

Wrap up



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Closing Thoughts...

Always refer to the
Public Assistance Program and Policy
Guide (PAPPG)

Take lots of pictures

Document Document Document



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