

# Debris Management and Monitoring

NYSEMA Conference



February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Debris: Why Does it Matter?**
  - Case Studies
  - Recent Changes in Reimbursement Programs
- **Debris Operations**
  - Emergency road clearance
  - Removal and disposal
  - Specialized projects
  - Specialized programs
- **Audits**
- **Questions**



# Debris Management and Monitoring

Introductions

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# Introductions

- Greg Brunelle
  - Vice President, Emergency Management & Community Resilience – Tetra Tech2
  - Over 20 years of Public Safety Experience
  - 11 years as a volunteer firefighter and advanced EMT
  - Former Jefferson County, NY Office of Fire & Emergency Management Director
  - Former with Jefferson County Emergency Management and New York State Emergency Management

# Introductions

- Kalindi Fitch
  - Deputy Director of Post Disaster Programs for Tetra Tech
  - Assists clients nationwide in the administration of federal grant programs
  - Extensive knowledge of eligibility requirements, regulations and federal policies including: FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Hazard Mitigation (HMGP), Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief (FHWA-ER), and Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Programs
  - Currently Supporting NJOEM, Boulder County, CO, and Napa County and the City of Napa, CA with post-disaster recovery.

# Debris Management and Monitoring

Debris: Why does it matter?

Case Studies

Recent Changes in Reimbursement Programs

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# Debris: Why does it Matter?

## Defining Crisis

- Significant event or issue creating public scrutiny which disrupts normal business activities and stimulates external news coverage.
- A crisis is not a matter of IF it will happen, but WHEN it will happen.
- Leadership must plan for “eventual” catastrophes.



# Debris: Why does it matter?

Fiscal Year	Total Expended or Obligated for Debris Removal(\$ millions)
2000	\$206.9
2001	\$376.3
2002	\$617.2
2003	\$212.6
2004	\$233.3
2005	\$1,316.3
2006	\$2,461.2
2007	\$753.9
2008	\$266.7
2009	\$1,347.3
2010	\$209.6
Total	<b>\$8,001.3</b>

- Removing debris is costly (up to 80% of post-disaster cost).
- Since 2000, FEMA has expended or obligated over \$8 billion in eligible debris removal costs.
- The table represents the federal cost share only.



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Case Study 1

### Orange County, TX– Hurricane Ike

- Households: 31,642
- Land area: 356 square miles
- White goods: 21,348 collected
  - 5,756 of the collected white goods required Freon removal
  - 6,486 of the collected white goods required putrid food removal
- Cost: \$2,082,580.00



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Case Study 2

### Henrico County, VA – Hurricane Irene

- Households: 108,121
- Land area: 245 square miles
  - Leaners: 132 removals
  - Hangers: 13,233 trees serviced
  - Vegetative debris: 26,951 tons



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Case Study 3

### **City of Gulfport, MS – Hurricane Katrina**

- Households: 26,943
- Land area: 56.9 square miles
- 2,019,320 pounds of hazardous material (pork bellies and chicken carcasses)
- 387 abandoned vehicles removed
- 10,466 linear feet of pool fencing removed



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Case Study 4

### **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Superstorm Sandy**

- Coastline miles: 1,344 miles
- 333,375 cubic yards of displaced sediment removed from waterways



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Case Study 5

### Augusta-Richmond, GA – Winter Storm Pax

- Population: 197,872
- Land area: 306.5 square miles
  - Leaners: 792 removals
  - Hangers: 26,027 trees serviced
  - Vegetative debris: 645,970 cubic yards
- Debris Removal and Hazardous Tree Cost: \$12.1 million dollars



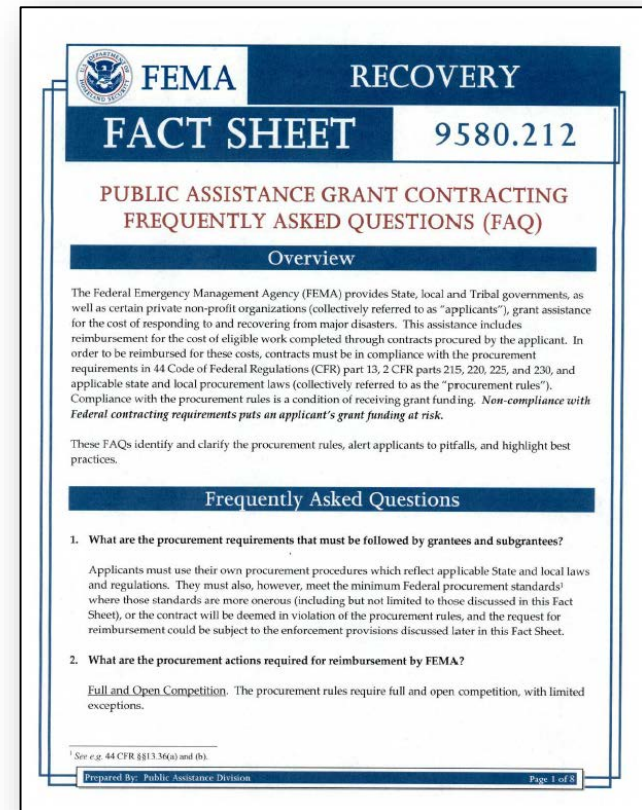


# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### FEMA 9500 Series Policy Publications

- Recovery Fact Sheet 9580.214 Debris Removal on Federal-Aid Highways
- Provides information on debris removal from federal-aid highways under the FEMA Public Assistance program
- Explains recent changes to federal funding programs



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### Changes to Federal Disaster Aid Programs

- Until recently, the FHWA had the primary authority to remove debris on federal-aid highways under its ER Program
  - FHWA Would only address first pass
  - FEMA would reimburse for subsequent passes
- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (“MAP-21”) signed 7/6/12 changed this process (2012)



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### Changes to Federal Disaster Aid Programs

- FHWA-ER – Conditions for Eligibility
  - Governor declares emergency but does not receive a Presidential declaration
  - The event received a Presidential emergency declaration, but FEMA has determined that debris removal is not eligible
  - A Governor's emergency declaration includes more counties than a Presidential declaration. FHWA can participate in debris removal for those counties not included in the Presidential Declaration

For additional information on changes as a result of MAP-21:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qaer.cfm>

For additional information on the FHWA ER Program:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/erm/>



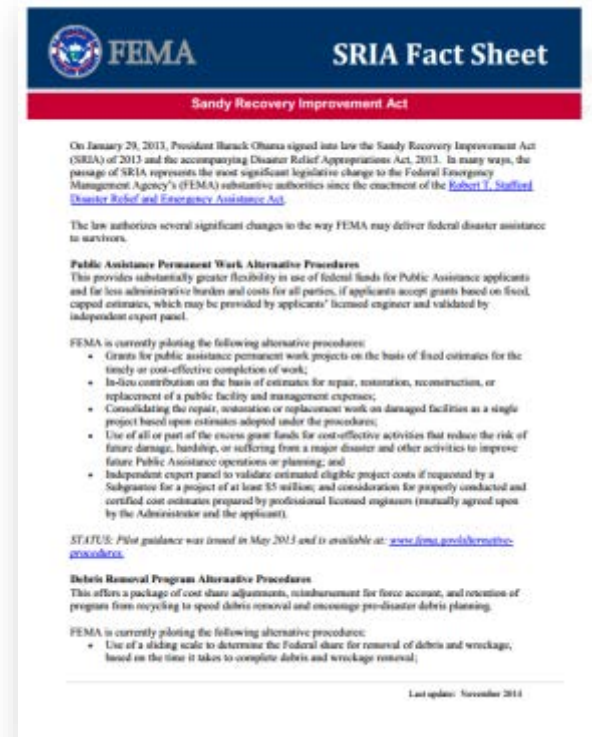
# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### Sandy Recovery Improvement Act

- Objectives

- Reduce the cost of federal government assistance
- Increase the administrative flexibility of the FEMA Public Assistance program
- Expedite the process of providing and using the assistance
- Create incentives for applicants to complete projects in a timely and cost-effective manner



# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### **Sandy Recovery Improvement Act**

- **Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal**
- **Addition of Section 428 – Debris Removal Assistance**
  - Allows for the use of a sliding scale to determine cost share based on time
  - Allows for the use of program income from recycled debris
  - Allows for reimbursing base on straight and overtime wages
  - Allows for incentives to have an approved debris management plan and pre-qualified contractors

# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal

Sliding Scale - Increased federal cost share for collection, hauling, processing and disposal within a specific time frame

Debris Removal Completed* (days from start of Incident Period)	Federal Cost Share
0-30	85%
31-90	80%
91-180	75%
NO FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR DEBRIS REMOVAL AFTER 180 DAYS (UNLESS EXTENSION GRANTED)	

# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### **Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal**

#### **Recycling Revenues**

- Retain revenue received through recycling eligible disaster debris
- Must provide written notification to the State
- Cost of recycling program cannot be claimed as direct project cost

# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### **Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal**

Must use recycling Revenue to:

- Meet the cost sharing requirements of FEMA Public Assistance for debris removal
- Develop comprehensive disaster preparedness and assistance plans, programs and capabilities
- Activities that reduce the risk of future hardship or suffering from a major disaster
- Activities to improve future debris removal operations or planning

# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### **Alternative Procedures for Debris Removal**

#### **Straight Time Force Account Labor**

- Reimbursement for base and overtime wages of existing employees and extra hires
- Costs calculated based on labor classifications
- Must track and maintain accurate hourly labor records
- Procedure can be used with any other alternative procedure or on its own
- Procedure can be applied to both large and small projects

# Debris: Why does it matter?

## Recent Changes in Reimbursement

### Develop a Debris Management Plan

- Mirror the response phases in your emergency plans
- Understand federal disaster grant opportunities/requirements
  - **Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA)**
  - MAP 21- FHWA ER
- Understand your current capacity/resources
- Supplement your recourses by procuring necessary emergency standby contracts
- Establish a communications plan

**FEMA offers a 2% increase to the federal cost share for having an approved Debris Management Plan**



# Debris Management and Monitoring

## Debris Operations

- Emergency road clearance
- Removal and disposal
- Specialized projects
- Specialized Programs

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015



# Debris Operations

- Procure Standby Contracts
  - Emergency Road Clearing
  - Debris Removal
  - Grinding/Reduction
  - Monitoring
- Scope, Price, & Qualification all important factors
- DBE participation
  - DBE utilization goals
  - Pre-disaster planning meeting

# Debris Operations

- Health & Safety Planning is a must!
- Involve your H&S Officers
- Component of debris management plan
- Critical for:
  - Field operations
  - Debris management sites



# Debris Operations

## Emergency Road Clearing (Push)

- Clearing of debris so that critical infrastructure can pass
- Priority roads and damage assessments create schedule for response
- Typically reimbursed by FEMA and FHWA if
  - Contracts are properly procured
  - Documentation supports invoices



# Debris Operations

The crisis has passed and all necessary actions are now implemented to restore normalcy. Debris removal starts.

## Work Plan Development

- Review damage reports
- Create deployment schedule
- Identify resources
  - Force account labor
  - Mutual aid
  - Contractor resources
- Review reimbursement opportunities
  - Plan for the audit in advance
  - Debris documentation



# Debris Operations

## Public Information Debris Segregation

- Schedule for pass completion
- Debris separation at curb
  - Household Garbage
  - Construction & Demolition
  - Vegetative
  - HHW
  - 'White' Good
  - Electronics



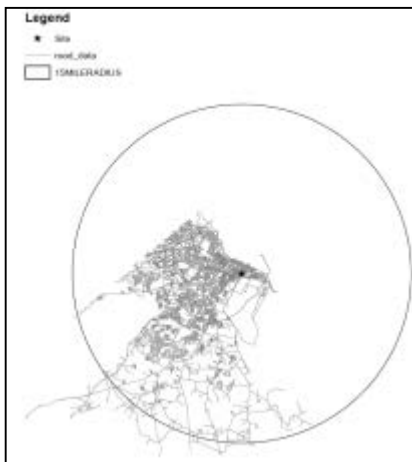


# Debris Operations

## Debris Disposal

### Debris Management Sites

- Planning debris management sites
  - Logistically located allowing hauling vehicles quick turnarounds
  - Max capacity vs. debris estimates
  - Environmental permitting
  - Historical review



# Debris Operations

## Debris Removal

### Right of Way - Debris Collection

- Removal by zone
- Pass schedule
- Public information



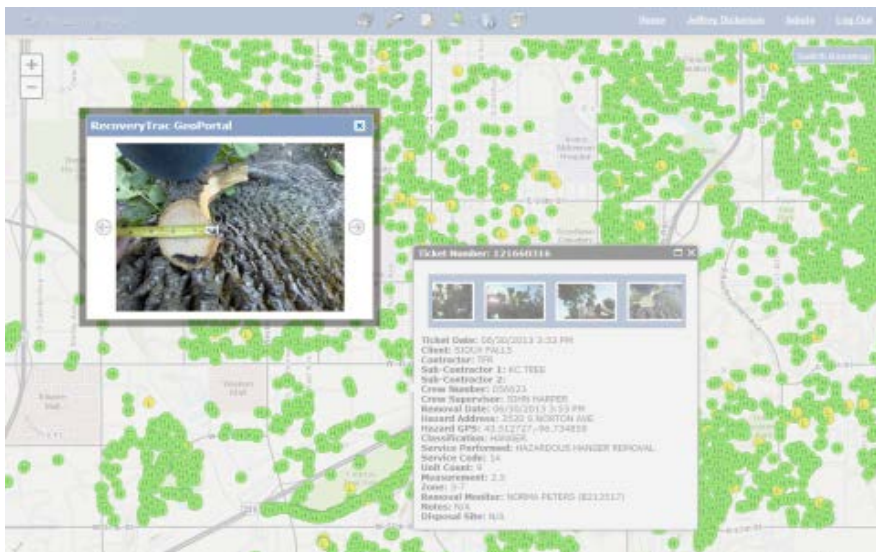
# Debris Operations

## Debris Removal

### Documentation

All contract labor must be monitored and documented

- Tracking debris from origin to final disposal
- Type of debris collected
- Amount of debris collected

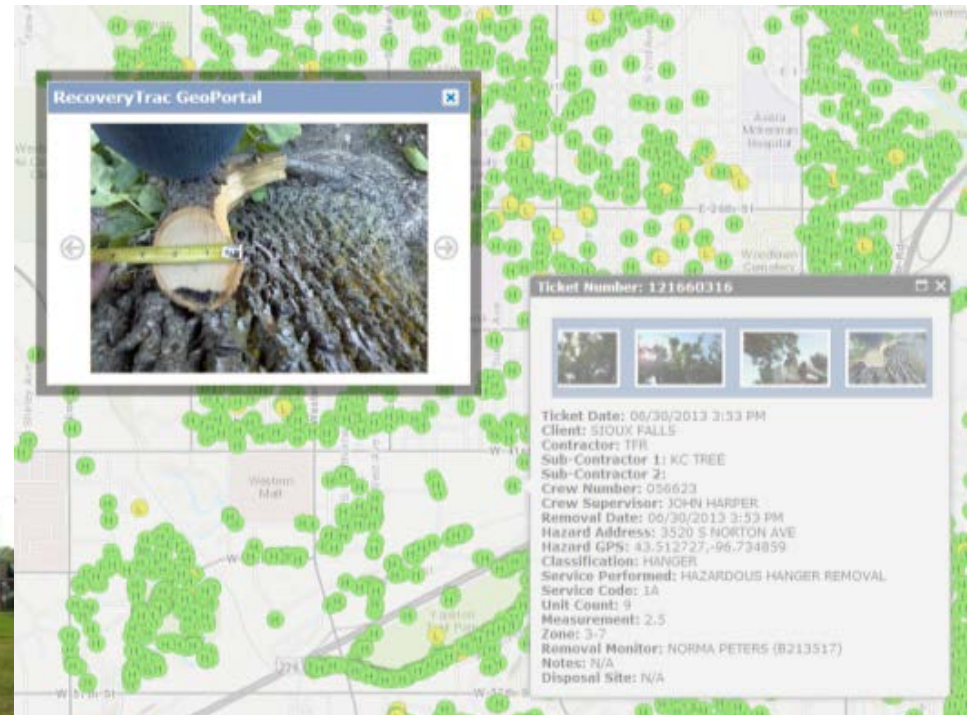




# Debris Operations Specialized Projects

## Hazardous Tree Removal

- Require additional levels of documentation
  - Automated documentation systems are strongly recommended



# Debris Operations Specialized Projects

## Municipality Parks and Airports

- Require additional levels of documentation
  - Eligible Applicant?
  - Pictures
  - GPS Coordinates



# Debris Operations Specialized Programs

## Private Property Debris Removal

- Require additional levels of approvals from FEMA
- **Documentation is intense**
- Explore other alternatives (Volunteers)





# Debris Operations Specialized Programs

## Vehicles and Vessel Removal

- Responsibility for removal
- Multi-agency support
  - DEQ/DEP
  - DMV



# Debris Management and Monitoring

Audits

February 2015

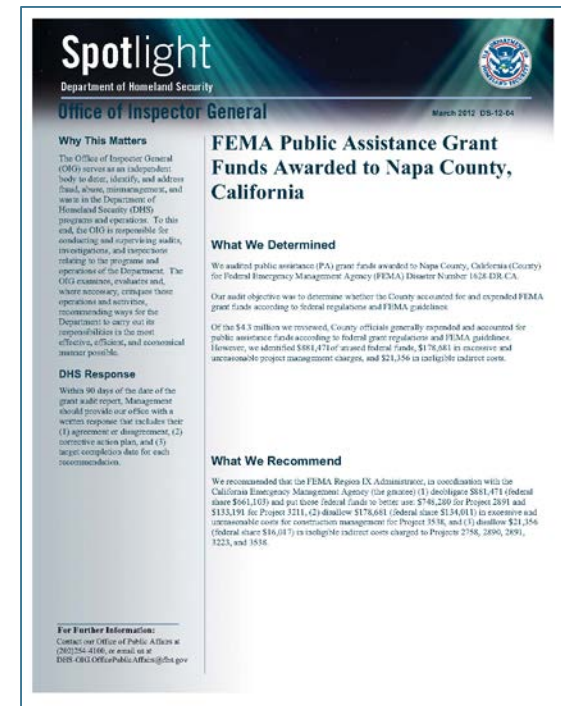
## DHS Office of Emergency Management Oversight

- Consists of 100 employees spread over 3 EMO regional offices (Western Regional Division, Central Regional Division, and Eastern Regional Division)
- EMO Mission –
  - Provide aggressive and ongoing audit effort to ensure that disaster relief funds are spent appropriately;
  - Identify fraud, waste, and abuse as early as possible;
  - Keep Congress, the Secretary, the Administrator of FEMA and others fully informed on problems relating to disaster operations and assistance programs;
  - Focus on prevention through review of internal controls and monitoring; and
  - Advise DHS and FEMA officials on contracts, grants, and purchase transactions before they are approved.

# Audits

## DHS Office of Emergency Management Oversight

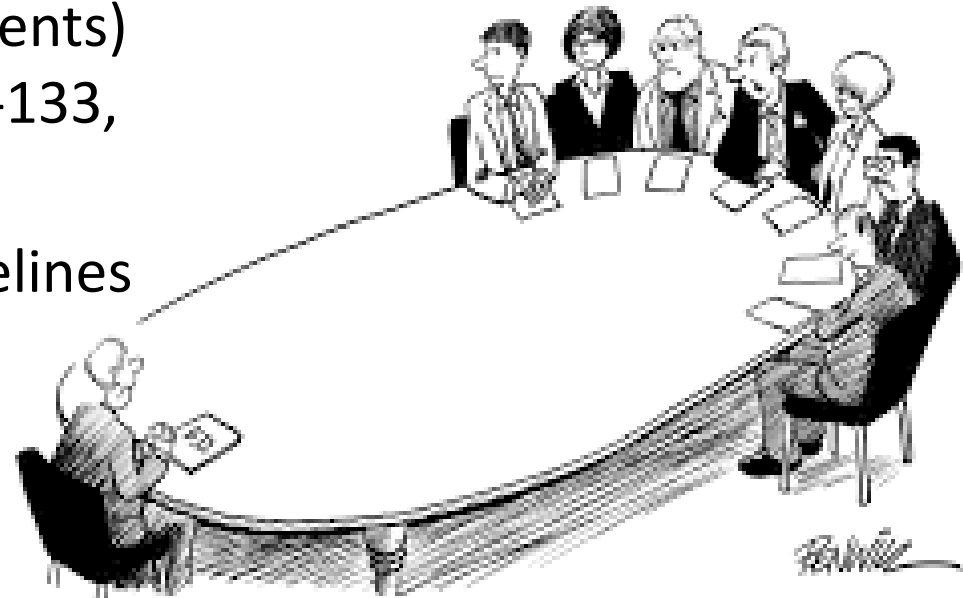
- 5 Audit Types:
  - Disaster Deployment Teams / Emergency Management Oversight Team (EMOT)
  - Capacity Audit
  - Early Warning Audit
  - Testimonial Audit
  - Program Audit



# Audits

## DHS Office of Emergency Management Oversight

- Audit Criteria (non-exclusive)
  - Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
  - OMB Circulars (Cost Principles & Administrative Requirements)  
e.g. A-21, A-97, A-122, A-133, FAR, etc.
  - FEMA Publications/Guidelines



"WE DON'T WANT YOU TO VIEW THIS AUDIT COMMITTEE  
AS BEING IN ANY WAY CONFRONTATIONAL."



## DHS Office of Emergency Management Oversight

How do they select who to Audit?

- Congressionally Mandated
- Current or Potential Dollar Magnitude
- Congressional Requests, or Requests from FEMA and State officials
- Reports of Allegations of Impropriety

## Recent Office of Inspector General Audits

- Multiple reports issued on Office of website in 2014 associated with debris
- OIG Report #1:
  - Subgrantee had employee timecards and payroll records to support cost but did not have activity logs to indicate what employees were doing
  - Claiming equipment use on Thanksgiving; however, no records of any township employee working on that holiday
  - Applicant purchased equipment (computer) but had no record of using the computer for debris removal activities

## Recent Office of Inspector General Audits

- OIG Report #2
  - Subgrantee accepted funding for debris removal prior to entering into an agreement with the County to remove debris on Subgrantee maintained roads
  - Subgrantee could not support cost of time and materials contractors (no time sheets or equipment activity logs)
  - For the debris removal work that County did manage, there were no contractor invoices or load tickets to support the claims
- OIG Report #3
  - FEMA incorrectly told applicants that they needed to follow state law or their own contracting procedures – this was incomplete information
  - Local governments can use their own contracting procedures ONLY if their procedures follow federal guidelines



**TETRA TECH**

**Gregory T. Brunelle** | Vice President

Emergency Management & Community Resilience

Mobile 518-944-5920 | [greg.brunelle@tetratech.com](mailto:greg.brunelle@tetratech.com)

**Kalindi Fitch** | Deputy Director, Post Disaster Programs

Direct +1 (321) 441-8513 | Mobile +1 (407) 615-0666

[kalindi.fitch@tetratech.com](mailto:kalindi.fitch@tetratech.com)