

FEMA Public Assistance Debris Management Information

Debris Management Eligibility and Documentation

Eligibility

Funds are available through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse Applicants for eligible expenses incurred in performing disaster-related debris management operations. Determination of eligibility is a FEMA responsibility.

Contractors do not have the authority to make eligibility determinations.

Generally, disaster-related debris located on public property and in public rights-of-way is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Eligible disaster debris may include downed trees and other woody debris; sand, silt, mud and gravel; building wreckage; and vehicles in the right-of-way.

Debris on private property generally is not eligible for funding under the Public Assistance Program, but disaster-damaged personal property may be moved to the curbside to be picked up by an eligible Applicant. Under extenuating circumstances, FEMA may approve removal of debris from private property on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should contact their State Emergency Management Agency for additional information prior to debris removal. Disaster debris that threatens private property may be eligible under FEMA's Individual Assistance Program.

Additional Eligibility References

FEMA 321, *Public Assistance Policy Digest*, p. 28.

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rrr/pd/pdigest.pdf>

FEMA 322, *Public Assistance Guide*, pp. 45-47.

<http://www.fema.gov/rrr/pd/paguided.shtm>

FEMA 325, *Public Assistance Debris Management Guide*

<http://www.fema.gov/rrr/pa/dmgtoc.shtm>

FEMA 329, *Debris Management Brochure*

<http://www.fema.gov/rrr/pa/dmgbroch/shtm>

FEMA 9580.1, *Public Assistance Debris Operations Job Aid*

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/rrr/pa/9580_1.pdf

44 CFR 206.224 (included in FEMA 322, Appendix C)

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Sections 403 and 407 (included in FEMA 322, Appendix B)

Documentation

As part of the grant application process, FEMA requires Applicants to provide detailed documentation to substantiate their claims. Types of documentation that an Applicant should have readily available for FEMA review include:

- ✓ Insurance policies
- ✓ Contracting process documentation (RFQs, bid tabulations, etc.)
- ✓ Contracts used for debris removal and disposal
- ✓ Time sheets documenting type of employee and labor hours/Contractor time sheets
- ✓ Equipment usage logs with drivers, mileage, and dates used
- ✓ Load tickets/Truck scale records
- ✓ Debris Management Site addresses
- ✓ Debris monitoring reports (used to document work performed and to identify issues that arose)
- ✓ Environmental baseline information
- ✓ Final disposal locations and tipping fees

Public Assistance Debris Eligibility Checklist

- The Applicant is a local government agency, State government agency, Indian tribe, or Private Nonprofit organization.
- The debris or wreckage is on public property or in the public right-of-way.
- The Work is a direct result of a Presidentially declared disaster.
- The Work is occurring within the designated disaster area.
- The Work is the responsibility of the Applicant at the time of the disaster.
- The Work eliminates threats to life, public health, or safety; OR
- The Work eliminates immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property; OR
- The Work ensures economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community-at-large.
- The cost to remove debris is "reasonable" and is competitive with established rates in the region. (Contractors are used; the contract meets FEMA contracting requirements.) AND/OR
- In-house equipment is used to remove debris. Detailed usage logs are kept.
- In-house, full-time personnel are used in debris management field operations. Eligible overtime is documented.
- Temporary/backfill employees perform debris-related work. Regular and overtime is documented.