

## Pre-Disaster Planning for Post-Disaster Debris Management Operations During Response and Recovery Operations

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Presentation Prepared for the Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America - Annual Conference October 7, 2011



## *Some might ask ...*

... why a state emergency management agency is concerned with debris management operations ...



## *Typically we're not but ...*

- For larger scale events, debris can block emergency transportation routes.
- Debris management costs typically result in 40% of the total cost of any given disaster.
- A large event can seriously reduce future landfill capacity.
- Piles of debris can become a media focus.
- Emergency Management brings stakeholders and subject matter experts to the table to collectively analyze issues and make recommendations.



## *Typically we're not but ...*

- Decisions made on the fly by elected officials can cause additional problems.
- Staring at debris can cause behavioral health issues.
- Can cause further public safety and environmental issues.
- If not given immediate direction, people will start to act on their own.



## Terminology

- EOC = Emergency Operations Center
- ESF = Emergency Support Function
- RSF = Recovery Support Function



## ESFs and RSFs

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>ESF</b>   |  | <b>RSF</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESF#3, Public Works and Engineering (CDOT)</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage Assessment</li> <li>• Lifelines Restoration</li> <li>• Debris Management</li> <li>• Project Management</li> </ul> |



## Recovery Support Functions



## Response & Recovery Phases

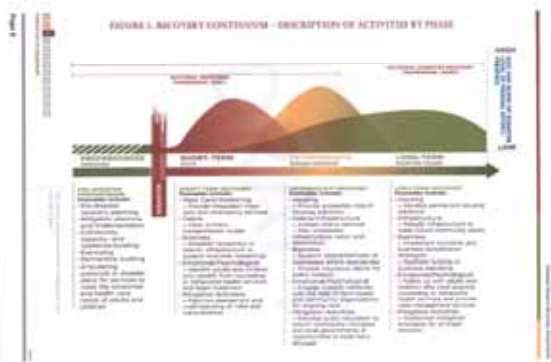
- Immediate
  - First 24 Hours
- Stabilization
  - 24 Hours – 72 Hours
- Short-Term
  - 72 Hours – 14 Days
- Intermediate
  - 14 Days – 6 Months
- Long-Term
  - 6 Months and Beyond



Tornados in Weld County in 2008



Draft National Disaster Recovery Framework



Debris Clearance, Staging, Permanent Solution

- Debris clearance is generally immediate and usually for the purpose of providing for public safety and health.
- Staging is that interim phase before a more permanent action is taken.
- Permanent solution – hopefully it's the last time it has to be moved.



*At this present time ...*

- As far as I know, there is no overarching and comprehensive strategy for managing debris at the state level at this time.
- There are most likely components of a debris management strategy within individual departments.



*At a minimum, a comprehensive state level debris management strategy would involve :*

- State agencies addressing debris management strategies for properties the state owns or has property management responsibilities for;
- State agencies providing technical expertise to the state and others on debris issues;



*At a minimum, a comprehensive state level debris management strategy would involve :*

- State agencies identifying potential sources of funding for debris removal;
- State agencies incorporating other stakeholders, such as communities and content experts;
- Identifying potential resources and resource shortages.



## Next Steps

- Promote the continued development of debris management strategies and plans at both the state and local level.
- Some communities are working on them now. If your community is working on one, hopefully the right people are involved.



## Next Steps

- The one thing we've found is that some plans are too generic.
- It's important to identify:
  - Key roles and assign responsibilities appropriately and ahead of time;
  - Priorities;
  - **Coordination and communication mechanisms;** and
  - Preferred strategies.



## *Reimbursement for Debris ...*

- Debris management costs typically result in 40% of the total cost of any given disaster.
- It's hard for local governments and other entities to recover the costs.
- There are no state response or recovery funds pre-designated for debris removal.



### *Reimbursement for Debris ...*

- Presidential disaster declarations – Never assume beforehand that the state and local governments have met the impact indicators to receive a declaration.
- Decisions made should be prudent and reasonable regardless of who is funding the operation.



### *Reimbursement for Debris ...*

How do we get a Presidential disaster declaration?

The Governor must request and the state and local governments should demonstrate that their capability and capacity has been exceeded.



### **Impact Indicators**

- A key impact indicator at the state level is a calculation of (per capita \$ amount) X 2010 census state population. (Roughly need \$6.5 million in eligible expenses.)
- A key impact indicator at the county level is a calculation of (per capita \$ amount) X 2010 county population.



### *Reimbursement for Debris ...*

- FEMA Public Assistance Program
- While debris removal is an eligible activity (Emergency Work – Category A, Debris Removal) under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, the last time we received federal assistance for that was in 2001.



*Reimbursement for Debris ...*

- In 2008 Windsor (Weld and Larimer Counties) received a Presidential disaster declaration for IA (Individual Assistance), but with that declaration, HUD was able to request a supplemental appropriation for a CDBG. Windsor was able to use some of those funds for reimbursement for debris removal.



*Thank you for inviting the Colorado  
Division of Emergency  
Management to speak today.*

*Debris Management is a topic of  
great interest to the emergency  
management community.*

