

APPENDIX C
DEBRIS CLEARANCE

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1. Mission Definition. The roadway clearance mission generally requires moving debris to the median or side of the ROW to allow for emergency traffic. Generally no removal of the debris is necessary to accomplish this mission.

2. Pre-Disaster Planning.

a. Corps: Work with local EMA's to pre-identify roadways that Federal efforts can target.

b. Local Governments: Local EMA's should locate and prioritize essential roadways. Responsibility for roadway clearance should be divided into three areas based upon capabilities, State, County (includes city), and Federal.

3. Post-Disaster Assessment.

a. POC's:

(1) Local and State engineers or DOT representatives

(2) Utilities: Power, water, gas

b. Assessment Recommendations: The level of assessment required will vary with the type of contract format chosen, for instance, an equipment rental format requires very little actual assessment versus a lump sum format which requires extensive assessment.

4. Special Coordination Issues.

a. Coordination with the local power companies is essential. The power must be OFF prior to sending crews in to move debris.

b. USDA Forest Service personnel are available to man chainsaw crews. See additional information.

5. Engineering.

a. Quantity Estimates:

(1) See 2b above.

(2) An equipment rental contract format is recommended for this mission to provide the necessary flexibility to work with numerous factors which

influence the scope of work. In that light, no estimate is required other than a description and number of equipment and manpower.

b. Contract Scopes of Work: The scope of work details the necessary information required to define an equipment rental contract such as a description of the required plant, labor, and contract duration.

6. Contract Information/Considerations.

a. Types of Contracts: See 5a(2) above.

b. Special Contract Issues: Equipment rental contract can be pre-packaged and placed on the shelf.

7. Real Estate Requirements. Rights-of-entry and hold harmless permits are required for any private property activities. Emergency roadway clearance will largely be confined to public right-of-way.

8. Logistics. N/A

9. Public Affairs. Coordinate with the FEMA Joint Information Center, JIC, with Corps' mission details as reported by USACE EOC.

10. REPORTING. Upward reporting should include the following information:

- a. Mission Amount
- b. Miles of road cleared
- c. Miles of road remaining to be cleared
- d. % complete
- e. Projected completion date
- f. Significant footnotes (Example) Utilization of USDA Forest Service Chainsaw Crews

11. Attached Reference Information.

USDA Forest Service Information

USDA FOREST SERVICE - CHAINSAW CREWS:

The USDA Forest Service and other Federal and State land management agencies have for a number of years been geared to fast response emergencies because of forest fires. In recent years responses have become more common for other emergencies such as earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, and search and rescue operations. For these responses, these land management agencies have always been proficient in chainsaw operations. Under the Federal Response Plan the Forest Service is assigned to ESF #7 for firefighting support to the state agencies. A major element in the control of wildfires is the use of chainsaws. All of the federal and state land management agencies have well-trained chainsaw operators. In addition, locals can be hired who have been pre-trained and certified. In the Forest Service Southern Region, each of 100 ranger districts has a minimum of one 2-person saw crew, with most districts having two or more. From the Forest Service alone there are 100 saw crews. Drawing from the southern states and other federal land management agencies, there is the potential of 100 more, for a total of 200 crews.

The Southern Interagency Coordination Center (SICC) for emergency responses involving southern state forestry agencies, the USDA Forest Service, National Park Services, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is located in Atlanta, Georgia. The specific location is in the Forest Service's Southern Regional (R8) office and is staffed by representatives from the aforementioned agencies. If chainsaw crews (or other manpower needs) or equipment are requested for an emergency by FEMA or a partner agency, these requests can be filled by SICC with personnel or equipment generally on site within 24 hours. Orders are filled by drawing on resources from these agencies and personnel are, in most cases, pre-alerted to the potential for possible "call ups." In the case of chainsaw crews, these would come as 2-person crews fully equipped with saws and related supplies. Preferably these crews would be sent out as strike teams with a strike team being from three to five 2-man person crews. The strike team would have a leader.

Saw crews can be married up with other disciplines such as dump trucks, backhoes, laborers, search teams, etc., to form configurations to match the need. These unlike resources are generally called task forces. The task force, like the strike team, would have a leader.

If other types of personnel or equipment are needed, these can be supplied by an order to SICC. If the southern region area cannot supply the need, or if supplies are exhausted, the request will then go to the Boise Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, and it will become a national request. Again, these personnel can usually be on site within 24 hours.

Chainsaw crews are trained and certified for sawing operations. These crews can be ordered to be self-sufficient for three to four days, bringing MRE's and water with them.

If the ordering agency wants support to arrive with the teams, that can also be a part of the mission. The support personnel can vary from transportation to food, to medical, to sleeping. All support personnel are prepared for quick responses to emergencies. Length of stay is not recommended past a three week period due to fatigue and the potential for accidents.

All personnel ordered from SICC or the Basic Interagency Fire Center (BIFC) work under the Incident Command System (ICS). This means that ALL the federal and state land management agencies talk or speak the same language. For example, if a strike team leader from the Tennessee Division of Forestry (State Agency) is ordered to supervise personnel from the Great Smokey Mountain National Park (Federal Park), all personnel understand the same terminology. This makes the interagency concept work well.

Another resource available to manage a large number of saw crews and/or support personnel is an Incident Overhead Team. These are two such interagency teams based in the southern states area. The overhead team would be supervised by an incident commander and is staffed to manage all operations, communications, logistical, financial (including contracting), planning, medical and related needs. These teams can arrive fully self-sufficient (food, water, medical) until local services can be arranged. An overhead team is ordered also through SICC. If the teams are committed, others are available in other parts of the country. A fully staffed team varies from about 30 to 40 people, depending on the need. For less complex needs, a smaller team could be configured.

Other specialties can be ordered to fit the needs of the ordering agency. For example, during the Andrew incident, forklift operators were a common request. Mechanics, carpenters, truck drivers, bus drivers, law enforcement officers, and EMT's are orders that have been filled through SICC. Another resource sometimes ordered is a field kitchen, or food serving unit, fully staffed. If this cannot be provided from one of the land management agencies, a contractor can generally be supplied. The southern states area for the land management agencies also has a regional fire cache. Through a state forester or federal agency head, many different equipment orders can be filled such as chainsaws, portable radio systems, hand tools, small pumps, etc. These orders, like personnel, are made through SICC. An inventory of available equipment, manpower, and supplies can be made available by contacting the SICC coordinator, USDA Forest Service Office in Atlanta (404/347-4243).

Figures presented here represent resource needs available in the Forest Service Region 8 (southern states). These can be increased substantially by ordering nationally, which is a simple, proven process. Most national orders can be in place in 24 hours, 48 hours maximum. A sample of available items in the London cache include:

- Chainsaws
- Portable generators
- Portable pumps

- Hand tools (axes, etc.)
- Sleeping bags
- Radio kits with repeaters
- Portable weather station
- Personal protective items (hard hats, gloves, etc.)

Another source, rapid development, of a labor pool is the Civilian Conservation Corps Centers hosted by the Forest Service and Park Service on federal lands. Until local forces can be hired, the enrollees can be rapidly deployed for labor intensive operations. As with other resource needs, these orders can be placed through SICC or the state forestry headquarters. Two hundred personnel from these centers could be deployed within 24 hours.

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