

U.S. EPA Roles, Responsibilities, Relationships in Disaster Debris Management

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Disaster Debris Team of the
Woody Biomass Utilization Group

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Intent of Congress: RCRA Subtitle D (Solid Waste)

State and Local Government Responsibility

U.S. EPA: Develop regulations; Approve
state permitting programs

U.S. EPA: NO permitting; NO enforcement
and compliance; NO money to states

National Response Framework

U.S. EPA:

FEMA Mission Assignment (Hurricane Katrina)

- *Mitigate Threats from Oil and Hazardous Substances (ESF #10)*
- **Provide Technical Assistance to Water/Wastewater Facilities**
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**
- **Monitor Debris Collection Sites (New LST)**
- **Spoiled Food Disposal**
- *Support ESF #3 (USACE) and ESF #14 (Multiple Agencies)*

USACE Inter-Agency Agreement (IAG)

- **POTW Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Support**

EPA's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Programs

- *Planning for Natural Disaster Debris* guidance document (Office of Solid Waste, March 2008)
- Region 4 *Disaster Debris Resource Guide* (comments due April 25, 2008)
- Voluntary Programs (e.g., Resource Conservation Challenge; GreenScapes)
- Region 4 Landfill Specialty Team

Resource Conservation Challenge

- Launched in 2002, the RCC implements Congress' charge to EPA under RCRA and the Pollution Prevention Act to prevent pollution and conserve natural resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently.
- Provides renewed urgency to EPA's message of reducing, reusing and recycling valuable materials habitually discarded by American industry and the general public
- Links the importance of these activities to energy conservation and GHG reductions

GreenScapes

EPA Partnership program to implement and promote “green” landscaping practices

⊕ Partners & Allies

⊕ Provides state-of-the-art recommendations

⊕ Web-based cost **calculators & resources**

⊕ Multi-media ... Continually Updated

⊕ Large & Small Scale

⊕ National Recognition Program & Case Studies

GreenScapes

- A growing group of organizations, large and small, coming together to promote green land care practices.
- Currently **190+** including:
 - **US Green Building Council**
 - **American Society of Landscape Architects**
 - **American Nursery & Landscape Association**
 - **Home Depot**

EPA Agriculture Program

- Support afforestation efforts - Increase carbon sequestration and reduce GHG emissions, and restore ecological health
- Conserve/utilize resources – Organics for bedding and erosion control purposes at **farming operations**
- Expand markets for organic materials – commercial sales, government agencies (DOTs), beneficial land applications
- Demonstrate and develop new technologies for processing woody biomass into clean energy

Region 4 Landfill Specialty Team

- Function: Provide assistance to state and local governments to assure proper management and disposition of disaster debris, with focus on proper segregation and land disposal practices
- Pre-Incident:
 - Training
 - Evaluation of R4 states' needs to determine and prioritize assistance in planning and preparedness
 - **Share/disseminate pertinent information on planning and preparing for disaster debris management**

LST Post-Incident Assistance

- Reconnaissance; establish communications; evaluate needs of state and local governments
- Assist with hydrogeologic assessments of proposed land disposal sites
- Establish monitoring protocol with state solid waste permitting/compliance program(s)
- Monitor demolition debris disposal sites for proper management practices and presence of prohibited materials
- Perform specific duties including documentation and reporting responsibilities as previously described)

Pre-Incident Assistance

- Assistance to state solid waste management programs as related to large-scale disaster debris preparedness:
 - **Models/templates for pre-incident draft document preparation (Guidance and policy; Permits and temporary authorizations)**
 - Dissemination of valuable information (e.g., R4 Disaster Debris Resource Guide: organizations and associations, salvaged material and recycling databases, exchanges and directories, available guidance documents, landfill databases)
 - Case studies, issues and past experiences of other states (FL, MS, LA, NC, SC, et.al.)

Contact Information

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