New Jersey’s Disaster Debris Management Program

Robin Heston-Murphy, NJDEP
ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meeting
May 1, 2019
Superstorm Sandy
October 29, 2012
## Sandy Debris Generation Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume Handled (Million cubic yards)</th>
<th>C&amp;D</th>
<th>Veg</th>
<th>Sand</th>
<th>Demolition</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disposed/Recycled/Reused</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Tale of 2 Storms

**Brown outline** – Mostly C&D debris

**Green outline** – Mostly vegetative debris

**Coastal Area** – Storm surge and severe flooding

**Inland & Northwest** – Heavy winds & rain
Estimated Tons of C&D Disposed Each Week From November 3 - June 15 From Monmouth, Middlesex, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May Counties
Over 100,000 cubic yards of C&D debris recovered under Waterway Debris Removal Contract
8 houses removed as part of waterway debris removal
1400 Vessels sunk or abandoned
Sandy Temporary Debris Management Areas

- 334 approved TDMA sites - total approved storage capacity - 5 million cy
  - 247 Vegetative Debris Only – 3.2 million cy storage capacity
  - 30 C&D Debris Only – 500,000 cy storage capacity
  - 55 Mixed Debris – 1.5 million cy storage capacity
Challenges Responding to Sandy

- Communications
  - Too little and too much
- Volume of vegetative debris & timing
  - No market for mulch until Spring
- Location of vegetative debris vs recycling centers
  - Majority of debris in North, majority of recycling centers in South
Challenges Responding to Sandy

- No state debris contracts in place
  - Implemented emergency bid process
- Planning was for another Hurricane Irene, not a Sandy
  - Most prior events were river flooding events
- Issues getting waste to disposal facilities – facility & road closures
- Availability of transfer trailers to haul debris from facilities
Sandy Response Successes

- Central e-mail address for all emergency correspondence
  - Solidwasteemergencies@dep.nj.gov
- Emergency contact list solid waste facilities and recycling centers
  - Updated every May
- Created a Temporary Debris Management Area Approval Request Form
  - Reduced review time
Sandy Response Successes

• Issued blanket approval allowing solid waste facilities and recycling centers to operate 24 hours, 7 days a week initially
  • Extended in hardest hit counties as needed
• Temporarily relaxed solid waste transportation licensing and registration requirements
• Waste flow suspended in 3 counties to facilitate debris disposal
Debris Management Planning Post-Sandy

Strategies for Future Debris Events
Debris Management Contracts

- 4 State Debris Contracts now in place
  - Land Debris Removal
  - Debris Monitoring
  - Waterway Debris Removal (South Region Only)
  - Waterway Debris Assessment
- Waterway Debris Removal (Statewide) is out for bid
- Cooperative Purchasing Program municipalities and counties may utilize contracts
Updated State Debris Management Plan

• Revised State Debris Management Plan (Appendix A to ESF 3) finalized December 2018
• Revised Plan currently under review by FEMA
TDMA Pre-Approval Process

• Counties & Municipalities may receive pre-approval of TDMA sites for future events
• No expiration – must recertify regarding site conditions every 5 years
• Requests sent to 7 different DEP Programs for additional review
  • Wetlands, FHA, SHPO, Endangered Species, Stormwater, Water Supply, Green Acres
One-on-One TDMA Assistance

- Debris Team staff meet with municipalities and prepare TDMA Pre-Approval Request
- We do the work, town signs the form
- Easier on municipality and speeds up review time
- Better response rate
County Debris Management Plan Template

- Developed template for counties to use when preparing a Debris Management Plan
- Template based on FEMA Guidelines and reviewed by FEMA prior to roll-out
- Meeting with counties to assist in the development of Plans
Developed & printed flyer for municipalities
Debris Planning Webpage

www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/debris

- Contains all planning documents & templates
- Will have event specific information (for future events)
Internal Procedures

- Established Debris Management Team
  - Includes 2 dedicated debris planning staff
- Developed detailed Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) for the Division
- Developed checklist of tasks to complete immediately prior to a storm event
- Creation of a DEP EOC for future event coordination
NJ Debris Management Team

NJDEP, Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste

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