



Wildfire Debris Management

Disaster Debris Management

California Emergency Management Agency



Wildfire Debris Management

Public Assistance

- State funds to help local governments recover (state disasters)
- State funds to cost share with federal grants (federal disasters)
- Coordinates federal grants (federal disasters)





Wildfire Debris Management

What PA Provides

- State funds (state only disaster) are provided on a cost sharing basis
 - 75% state (for applicants eligible under state law)
 - 25% local
- Federal funds are provided on a cost sharing basis
 - 75% federal
 - 18.75% state (for applicants eligible under state law)
 - 6.25% local





Wildfire Debris Management

Authority

- **State**
 - **Emergency Services Act**
 - **California Disaster Assistance Act**
 - **Title 19, CCR**
- **Federal**
 - **Robert T. Stafford Act & Amendments**
 - **Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 13, 204 and Others**





Wildfire Debris Management

Public Interest

- Eliminate immediate threat to life, public health and safety
- Eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property

Debris Removal

- Debris must pose an immediate threat
- Eligibility of debris activities must address public health & safety.
- Debris can be removed to ensure economic recovery (federal declaration only)





Wildfire Debris Management

Eligibility

- Debris must be the result of disaster event
- Be located within designated disaster area
- Be legal responsibility of eligible applicant

Eligible Applicants

- Local agencies
- Special Districts
- State Agencies (if federal disaster)
- Certain Private-non-Profits (PNPs)





Wildfire Debris Management

Debris Removal from Curbside/Right-of-Way

- Be disaster-related
- Be separated from garbage
- Be kept in distinct piles
- Monitor pickup activities
- Keep public informed





Wildfire Debris Management

Disposal Alternatives

- Recycling Centers
- Salvage
- Agriculture
- Secondary Fuel Markets



Re-Use & Recycling

- Timber Debris
- Vegetative debris (mulched)
- Construction & Demolition Debris
- White Goods (Appliances)
- Scrap Metals
- Recyclables (cans, plastic & glass)



Wildfire Debris Management

Debris Removal from Private Property

- Authority
 - CDAA Title 19, Section 2925(2)
 - 44 CFR 206.224(b)
- Eligible only if there is an immediate threat
- Applicants & property owners are aware of responsibilities
- Has been approved by State and/or FEMA





Wildfire Debris Management

Demonstrating a Threat

- Review local ordinances & resolutions
- Local building official makes the determination
- Public official makes a determination





Wildfire Debris Management

2007 Cal EPA Ash Report

- Determined burned debris and ash posed an immediate threat to public health and safety
- Report sent to US EPA
- FEMA accepted report findings & agrees to private property debris removal





Wildfire Debris Management

Ineligible Debris

- Vehicles
- Damaged pools, basements, foundations
- Pre-disaster items awaiting disposal
- Reconstruction debris
- Non-threatening debris
- Non-disaster related debris





Wildfire Debris Management

Past Debris Issues

- Private Property Debris Removal
- Ash
- Debris Segregation
- Eligibility
- Sediment
- Recycling
- Insurance

Lessons Learned

- Make a plan
- Don't wait
- Document everything
- Monitor what's happening





Wildfire Debris Management

Contact Information

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