

# DEBRIS GUIDANCE

The purpose of this guidance sheet is to provide key information to consider when planning and initiating debris removal operations.

Incident-related debris may include vegetative debris, components of structures, sand, mud, silt, gravel, rocks, boulders, vehicles, and vessels from improved public property and public rights-of-way (ROWs).

Communities may authorize residents to place incident-related debris on the public ROW. In such cases, local governments should provide guidance to citizens to avoid placing hazardous waste on the ROW and to avoid placing debris near fire hydrants and power poles. Communities should consider placing large roll-off trash bins on public property and ROW for use by the citizens to minimize significant debris piles on the ROW and establishing debris drop-off sites for household hazardous waste.

## Monitoring Debris Operations

It is in the best interest of local governments to obtain debris monitors to oversee the debris operations. Debris monitors will be responsible for initiating debris load tickets at contractor debris loading sites and estimating and recording the quantity of debris, in cubic yards (CY) on debris load tickets of all vehicles entering temporary debris sites.

## Document these items ...

Local government should document the following information to support debris removal activities:

- Location, addresses, GPS coordinates, photos
- Quantity and type of debris
- Hauled to a temporary staging site
- Force Account Labor
  - Name
  - Days and hours worked
- Force Account (owned) equipment
  - Type of equipment and attachments used
  - Year, make, model, size/capacity
- Contractors
  - Load tickets (see attached sample load ticket)
  - Name
  - Days and hours used
- Contracted equipment
  - Certifications of truck size/capacity

## Selecting Disposal Sites

**DO:** Obtain permits from applicable Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local regulatory agencies.

**DO NOT:** Dispose of debris in floodplains or wetlands.

**DO:** If burning debris as a reduction method, obtain guidance from applicable State, Territorial, Tribal, or local regulatory agencies to determine if and where burning can be conducted.

**AVOID:** Areas such as endangered species' critical habitats, archeologically sensitive areas, rare ecosystems, contaminated sites, well fields, or surface waters. If near these areas, establish buffer and/or turbidity barriers.

**AVOID:** Areas of close proximity to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, historic buildings, residences, or public water supplies especially in windy areas due to dust and odor.