

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Overview

In 2010 the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO), which includes Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington, conducted a regional disaster debris planning project to identify regional capabilities and address key issues for further exploration and development. The project addressed the following key issues:

- Plan ownership, regional coordination, and plan development
- Thresholds triggering a regional response to disaster debris management
- Mutual aid availability and scope
- Identification of debris sites
- Definition of jurisdictional roles and responsibilities
- Local disaster debris management plan components

Building on that work, the RDPO funded a second phase of the planning project with the intent of moving beyond issue identification to proposed solutions for greater regional coordination of disaster debris operations. This phase included the efforts of stakeholders from all five counties, multiple cities, Metro, state agencies in Oregon and Washington, and federal agencies, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The primary deliverables and key findings and recommendations that resulted from this work are presented below.

KEY PROJECT MILESTONES

- Project portal website – June 2013
- List of documents supporting regional debris operations – June 2013
- Conduct debris management plan assessments – June–July 2013
- Stakeholder engagement plan – July 2013
- Stakeholder meeting – July 2013
- Local plan assessments – August 2013
- Draft Jurisdictional Authority Report – September 2013
- Draft Debris Framework and Toolkit Materials – October 2013
- Stakeholder meeting – October 2013
- Stakeholder meeting – December 2013
- Final Draft Deliverables – January 2014
- Report Finalization and Production – February 2014

Jurisdictional Authority Report

To fully understand what authorities guide disaster debris operations in the Portland Metropolitan Region, a survey was conducted of statutes, regulations, and guidance at the federal, state, and local level. The results of this survey were then compiled and analyzed in a comprehensive Jurisdictional Authority Report. As part of this report, an assessment tool was developed for review of existing local debris plans. These assessments are included as an attachment to the report.

Key Survey Findings

- Review of authorities confirmed the understanding that debris operations are, in the first instance, the responsibility of local government.

- Local debris plans are at various stages of development.
- The role of Metro in regional debris operations needs to be clarified, particularly as it relates to managing regional debris management sites.
- Regional planning elements have not been established beyond development of draft materials.

The report highlighted the need for enhanced coordination and communication among regional partners and provided an informed baseline for development of the Disaster Debris Management Framework.

Disaster Debris Management Framework

Building on the Jurisdictional Authority Report, a Disaster Debris Management Framework was developed with the purpose of providing the RDPO and regional stakeholders with a proposed set of planning assumptions and operational concepts that could be applied during a debris-generating event that requires regional coordination. The objectives of the Debris Framework are as follows:

- Establish a regional planning scenario that will serve as a baseline for regional disaster debris management planning efforts.
- Provide a set of common planning assumptions that will drive further regional planning efforts around disaster debris management.
- Describe the authorities and existing organizational structures used by regional partners to coordinate emergency operations and disaster debris management.
- Identify opportunities for greater regional coordination and provide proposed operational concepts for implementation.

Key Recommendations

The Framework contains a variety of detailed recommendations as to how the region can enhance coordination around disaster debris management issues. These recommendations have been summarized below, reflecting key issues that arose from the plan development and stakeholder engagement processes:

- Update local debris plans to include a common regional planning scenario and concepts for regional coordination as presented in the Framework.
- Develop procedures for coordination of regional debris operations utilizing Multi-Agency Coordination System principles as outlined in the Regional All Hazards MAC Group concept of operations.
- Develop procedures for coordination of regional debris-related messaging
- Define role of Metro in support of local government debris clearance, collection and removal operations including management of regional Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction Sites.
- Define role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers in support of local government debris clearance, collection and removal operations.

- Continue efforts to coordinate regional planning around debris management including development and implementation regional and local disaster debris management work plans.

Disaster Debris Management Planning Toolkit

In addition to providing recommendations for regional coordination, the need was identified to provide local jurisdictions with a series of tools to support them in development or enhancement of their local debris plans. To that end, a Planning Toolkit was developed to provide tools that local planners can adapt to their own uses and are referenced in the Debris Framework. Additional tools may be found in the Draft Metro Debris Operations Manual.

1 Existing Tools and Resources

- FEMA Disaster Debris Policies and Guidance
- Draft Metro Debris Management Manual
- List of Mutual Aid Agreements

2 Debris Estimation and Forecasting Tools

- Types of Debris Overview
- Debris Estimation Methodology
- Local Debris Event Assessment Matrix

3 Debris Clearance and Removal Tools

- Right-of-Entry Permit

4 Roles and Responsibilities Tools

- Debris Manager Checklist
- Sample Roles and Responsibilities Matrix

5 Debris Management Site Tools

- Debris Storage Site Requirements
- Debris Site Layout
- Debris Site Assessment Report
- Weekly Debris Management Reports

6 Health and Safety Tools

- Hazardous Debris Evaluation and Safety Procedures
- Sample Health and Safety Strategy

7 Debris Monitoring Tools

- Debris Monitor Duties and Responsibilities
- General Debris Monitoring Tips and Considerations
- Sample Debris Monitoring Plan
- Sample Debris Monitoring RFP Letter and Scope

8 Public Information Tools

- Public Information Checklist
- Commonly Asked Questions and Key Issues
- Pre-Scripted Debris Collection Messages

9 Contracting Tools

- Contracting Checklist
- Example Time and Materials Contract
- Example Lump Sum Contract
- Example Unit Price Contract

10 Public Assistance Tools

- FEMA Public Assistance Forms

11 Program Implementation Tools

- Template Local Debris Management Work Plan
- FEMA Debris Management Plan Review Job Aid

Disaster Debris Management Framework

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Stakeholder Engagement

All of the deliverables described above were informed by stakeholder input. Stakeholder engagement opportunities included regular meetings of the Regional Disaster Debris Management Plan Update Task Force, and three facilitated stakeholder engagement meetings as follows:

- Stakeholder Meeting #1, Wednesday, July 10, Clackamas County Development Services Building
- Stakeholder Meeting #2, Thursday, October 24, Metro Council Chambers
- Stakeholder Meeting #3, Tuesday, December 10, Oregon Department of Transportation Region 1 Headquarters

Meeting invitations, materials, and feedback summaries are included as a project deliverable.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The RDPO would like to thank all the participants in the planning process. Strong participation ensures that regional planning documents serve all regional stakeholders as we seek to enhance our ability to respond to a large-scale debris generating event. We would also like to thank Clackamas County, Metro, and the Oregon Department of Transportation for providing venues for stakeholder engagement meetings. We would also like to recognize the members of the Regional Disaster Debris Management Plan Update Task Force, which served as the primary venue for review and comment on project deliverables. Task Force members include:

- Denise Barrett, Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization
- Cheryl Bledsoe, Clark County
- David Blitzer, City of Portland
- Geoff Bowyer, Oregon Department of Transportation
- Tom Hansell, Multnomah County
- Jeff Hepler, United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Bonnie Hirshberger, City of Lake Oswego
- Scott Klag, Metro
- Nancy Kraushaar, City of Wilsonville
- Laura Leebrick, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association
- Mike Maloney, Multnomah County
- Laureen Paulsen, City of Portland
- Don Pettit, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Dave Schamp, Washington County
- Paul Seitz, Washington County
- Sarah Stegmuller, Clackamas County
- Kevin Veaudry Casaus, City of Portland
- Lonny Welter, Columbia County
- Dave White, Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association

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