

DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Metro region¹ is vulnerable to natural and human-made incidents with the potential to generate large amounts of debris, such as construction and demolition materials, vegetative debris, hazardous waste, soil, etc. Natural hazards in the region capable of generating debris include earthquakes, floods, landslide, severe weather, and wildland/urban fires. Human-made hazards include intentional and unintentional incidents and can involve chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive materials.

Metro oversees the region's garbage and recycling system, ensuring that all solid waste generated in the region is managed in a manner that protects public health and safety, and safeguards the environment. Part of these responsibilities includes the management and disposal of disaster debris.

Metro recognizes the need to be prepared for, respond to, and recover from a debris-generating incident especially when the volume of debris overwhelms the existing solid waste infrastructure. The Metro Disaster Debris Management Plan (DDMP) is designed to provide guidance for Metro on how to manage and coordinate debris operations and system disruptions.

METRO ROLES AND CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

In many cases, debris clearance, removal, and disposal actions can be accomplished quickly using local government and jurisdictional resources. In other cases, disaster-generated debris is so extensive that it can only be successfully managed through pre-planning and the coordinated efforts of local, regional, state, and federal governments; non-profit and volunteer organizations; and by potentially leveraging contracts with private-sector organizations. In these cases, Metro will be prepared to support debris operations with the following roles, as further described in the plan:

- Information management and research
- Procurement and contracted services
- Public messaging and preparedness
- Debris incident management
- Multi-jurisdictional debris management task force coordination
- Situational awareness
- Public information
- Solid waste system adaptability
- Debris management site operation
- Household hazardous waste management

¹ For the purposes of this plan, it is defined as the entirety of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, as well as the cities within.

- Debris recycling and reuse strategies
- Debris final disposition strategies

METRO DEBRIS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

The ultimate responsibility for overall command and control of Metro departments and resources in response to an incident lies with the Chief Operating Officer. However, the Property and Environmental Services (PES) Director will maintain coordination and management of the Metro debris operations.

Metro will use an incident management structure, the Debris Incident Management Team (DIMIT), to coordinate Metro's disaster debris response. This structure is compliant with federal guidance on incident management and will be led by PES.

Depending on the size or complexity of the incident, or at the request of jurisdictional partners, Metro will activate the DIMIT. Metro personnel from various departments assigned emergency roles will staff the DIMIT. The DIMIT coordination and debris management activities include operational planning, information management, resource allocation, and financial accountability.

CONCLUSION

No plan can anticipate all the situations and conditions that may arise during an incident. It is imperative that Metro region jurisdictions, including the counties of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington, and response agencies, have plans that provide general guidance and a common framework for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from major incidents. This DDMP provides a framework for Metro that will bring a combination of technical capabilities and resources, plus the judgment and expertise of its personnel, department directors, and other key stakeholders to bear on any debris-generating incident affecting the Metro region.