

Debris Removal Response Plan for Rural Communities

1. Purpose

To provide a framework for efficient and effective debris removal operations in rural communities affected by storms, natural disasters, or other emergencies, ensuring the safety, health, and environmental integrity of these areas. Special emphasis is placed on procedures during an Alaska State Declared Disaster to streamline assistance and ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines.

2. Objectives

- Ensure timely debris clearance to restore community functionality.
- Minimize risks to life, health, and safety.
- Facilitate proper disposal and recycling of debris to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Coordinate resources and responsibilities among local, tribal, state, and federal agencies.
- Provide expedited assistance and streamlined processes during a State Declared Disaster.

3. Scope

This plan applies to rural communities within the State, focusing on those impacted by severe weather events, erosion, or other natural disasters. It addresses debris caused by wind, flooding, erosion, and community infrastructure damage. Provisions specific to an Alaska State Declared Disaster outline enhanced coordination, resource allocation, and funding mechanisms.

4. Key Roles and Responsibilities

Local Leadership (City, Tribal, and Village Councils)

- Identify priority areas for debris removal.
- Communicate local needs to state and federal partners.
- Facilitate access to local resources (equipment, labor).
- Work with SEOC to access additional resources under a State Declared Disaster.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

- Coordinate resources and support with local entities.
- Liaise with National Guard and Department of Forestry for specialized assistance.
- Provide technical guidance and funding support when applicable.

- Expedite approvals for debris removal operations during a State Declared Disaster.
- Collaborate with FEMA and state agencies to ensure eligibility for federal disaster funding.

Community Public Works and Volunteer Teams

- Conduct preliminary damage and debris assessments.
- Implement initial debris removal operations.
- Ensure proper safety measures during cleanup.

Federal Agencies and NGOs

- FEMA: Provide funding and technical support under disaster declarations.
- EPA: Offer guidance on hazardous material management.
- NGOs: Supply additional labor and resources as needed.

5. Planning and Coordination

Initial Assessments

1. Conduct a rapid assessment of debris impact, categorizing it into:
 - Vegetative (trees, branches).
 - Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials.
 - Hazardous waste (fuel containers, chemicals).
 - Household debris.
2. Document and map debris locations for prioritization.
3. Notify SEOC of immediate needs, particularly in cases of State Declared Disasters.

Prioritization Criteria

- Immediate threats to life and safety.
- Obstructions to critical infrastructure (roads, boardwalks, water systems).
- Proximity to sensitive environmental areas (water sources, wildlife habitats).

Resource Mobilization

- Deploy local resources for initial cleanup.
- Request state or federal assistance for large-scale or hazardous debris.
- Engage with neighboring communities for shared resource use.
- Expedite contracts and mutual aid agreements under a State Declared Disaster.

6. Execution

Operational Phases

1. **Emergency Clearance:** Remove debris blocking emergency routes and essential services.
2. **Community Cleanup:** Address residential and public spaces.
3. **Long-Term Restoration:** Clear and rehabilitate natural areas and infrastructure.

Safety and Environmental Considerations

- Provide PPE and training for all personnel.
- Implement measures to prevent contamination of water supplies.
- Follow EPA and state guidelines for hazardous waste disposal.

Disposal and Recycling

- Set up temporary debris storage sites.
- Recycle vegetative debris and C&D materials where feasible.
- Arrange transport of hazardous waste to appropriate facilities.

7. Communication Strategy

- Use local radio, social media, and flyers to inform residents about cleanup efforts.
- Establish a local hotline for debris removal requests and updates.
- Coordinate regular briefings with community leaders and stakeholders.
- Provide real-time updates to SEOC during State Declared Disasters.

8. Post-Response Actions

- Conduct after-action reviews to assess response effectiveness.
- Update the response plan based on lessons learned.
- Apply for funding to replenish community resources and improve preparedness.
- Ensure documentation of all debris removal operations for funding eligibility under disaster declarations.

9. Appendices

Appendix A: Contact List

- SEOC Operations Specialist
- Local Public Works Director
- Regional Tribal Leaders
- FEMA and EPA Representatives

Appendix B: Resource Inventory Template

- Equipment: (e.g., loaders, trucks, chainsaws).
- Workforce: (e.g., local volunteers, contracted labor).
- Disposal Sites: (e.g., landfills, recycling centers).

Appendix C: Sample Assessment Form

Debris Type	Location	Priority Level	Estimated Volume
Vegetative	Near Boardwalk A	High	10 tons
C&D Materials	Main Street	Medium	15 tons
Hazardous Waste	Water Plant	High	5 containers

10. Approval and Revision

This plan will be reviewed annually or after a major event and updated as necessary to reflect current best practices and community needs.