



# Debris Monitoring



Effective debris management requires monitoring of debris removal operations. Monitoring debris removal operations requires comprehensive observation and documentation by the Public Assistance applicant for debris removal work performed from the point of debris collection to final disposal.

Inadequate monitoring of debris activities often results in disputes between an applicant and the contractor, the State and/or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding reimbursement for debris removal, reduction and disposal. These disputes can lead to a loss of funding.

Trained Debris Monitors can assist in resolving issues in the field so that funding for debris removal operations is not jeopardized.

## Debris Monitoring Responsibilities

### Applicant Responsibility

The applicant must use full-time debris monitors to account for all debris management activities. In addition, the applicant will:

- Provide debris monitors who are trained in eligibility.
- Monitor operations in accordance with contract requirements.
- Prepare a daily report of activities completed.
- Provide sufficient documentation to support that the scope of work performed meets eligibility requirements.
- Resolve or correct issues or discrepancies that may arise.

### State Responsibility



Cal OES has the authority to monitor an applicant's debris removal operations, whether performed by the applicant or a contractor.

The state will:

- Monitor applicant's debris removal operation.
- Make periodic site visits, depending on magnitude and complexity of the operations, to ensure compliance with eligibility requirements.
- Assess the operation's compliance with terms of the scope of work, contract and applicant's debris management and monitoring plans.
- Review field notes and/or reports prepared by Debris Monitors.
- Prepare a summary report of observations, issues and resolutions.
- Notify applicant of compliance issues and outline possible solutions.
- Provide Training to Debris Field Monitors.



### Federal Responsibility

FEMA has the authority to monitor an applicant's debris removal operations, whether performed by the applicant or a contractor. In addition, FEMA will:

- Use FEMA Monitors to ensure that the applicant is sufficiently monitoring the debris removal operation.
- Monitor at load and disposal sites to ensure compliance with eligibility requirements.
- Notify State of compliance issues and outline corrective actions.



## Debris Field Monitors

Debris Field Monitors are responsible for monitoring of the specific day-to-day field activities. Debris Field Monitors should:

- Have a good understanding of eligible debris.
- Understand any time limits imposed on pickup of specific types of debris.
- Monitor specific activities at loading and/or disposal sites.
- Prepare daily reports of activities completed.
- Identify issues that need resolution.
- Report safety issues.
- Ensure ineligible debris is not picked up.
- Ensure that hazardous waste is properly separated.
- Ensure trucks loaded correctly and credited for their load.
- Report if completion dates are not on schedule.

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DISASTER RELIEF

## Debris Monitoring

A debris monitoring program observes and documents the work being done at two locations, minimum – point of collection and disposal (temporary and final). Some items to document at the various monitoring points include:

### Debris Loading Area

- Eligible debris is being picked up from contract area.
- If debris types are separated at the curbside, check that the contractor keeps it separated.
- Truck loads are full.
- Tailgates are in-place.
- Sideboards are in place.
- Time of pickup.
- Load is reasonably compact – large obstructions are not restricting placement of material. Note that if the loads are not properly loaded or compacted, debris monitors should reduce the rated volume of the truck accordingly.



### Debris Unloading Area

- Truck size is as reported on the load ticket.
- Determine proper debris quantities.
- Check time of collection for reasonable turnaround.
- Assure appropriate materials are properly segregated, such as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW).

### Debris Management Site

- Record inactive times of contract equipment.
- If air curtain incinerators are used, assure proper procedures.
- Assure HHW is properly segregated.
- Assure safety of personnel around equipment.
- At a minimum, an elevated inspection station should be used to enable the monitor to look down into the truck to verify both the contents and the load amount.
- Monitoring should also be performed at the exit point of the Debris Management Site to ensure the load has been sufficiently dumped.
- If the contract is by weight, then there should be a monitor at the certified scales.
- One of the best methods of monitoring is to use a load ticket system.



### Additional Resources

- [Cal OES Debris Training Manual](#)
- [Debris Removal Flyer](#)
- [Debris Estimating Flyer](#)
- [Debris Forecasting Flyer](#)
- [Debris Monitoring Guide, FEMA](#)

### Web Sites

[www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov)  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

### **Remember**

Don't forget to document all aspects of your debris removal operation.



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**Regulations:** *Title 19, Section 2900*  
*44 CFR, Section 206.224.*

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