

**City of Los Angeles LEA  
Perspectives on Disaster Debris  
Management**

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# Overview of Presentation

- **Part I: Technical Discussion**
  - Disaster Debris Materials
  - Staging and Processing
  - Special Considerations
  - Disposal Capacity
  - Contracting Issues (FEMA Requirements)
  - Fraud Issues
- **Part II: City of LA- LEA Perspectives**

# **Goal / Objective**

- **Planning Issues to Prepare for Disaster Debris Management**
- **Local Planning and Preparedness is Key**
- **Documentation (Needed for FEMA Reimbursement)**

# Disaster Debris Materials

- Materials are “Event Specific”
- Amount / Type is Varied
  - Proximity to Event
  - Time Sequence
  - Hazardous / Infectious (e.g., Asbestos, etc.)
  - Special Wastes (e.g., Electronic Wastes, etc.)
  - Motor Vehicles
- “Special Circumstances” Definitions

# Types of Materials

- High Rise Buildings (WTC)
  - Concrete / Steel / Glass
- Residential / Low Rise Buildings (Katrina)
  - Wood Frame Construction (w/Drywall/Plaster)
  - Brick Construction
- Green Materials / Yard Waste (Katrina)
- Motor Vehicles



















# Disaster Debris Materials

- Disaster Debris Definition(s)
  - Broad Definition of “Demolition Waste”
  - Defined by “Existing” Definitions
  - Defined by “Special Circumstances”
  - Definitions / Exemptions for Emergencies
  - Motor Vehicles (Cars, etc.)
  - Bulky Waste (Furniture, Appliances)

# Disaster Debris Materials

- Hazardous Waste (Asbestos, E-Waste, etc.)
- Infectious Waste (e.g., Biohazards)
- Special Considerations
  - Human Remains
  - Animal Remains (e.g., Pets, Horses, etc.)
  - Food Waste (from Refrigerators, etc.)
  - Valuables (Jewelry, etc.)















Be Paid for Assets  
A PRIVATE COMPANY  
is taking possession of  
HARD EARNED MONEY FROM  
Seniors **LAST YEAR**





# Special Circumstances

- 9/11 World Trade Center
  - Crime Scene
  - “Sensitive” Documents (e.g., Federal Agencies)
- Hurricane Katrina
  - Water-Logged / Damaged Waste
  - Formosan Termite (Quarantine Restriction)

# Staging / Processing Issues

- 9/11-WTC Crime Scene Processing
  - Coordination with NYPD / FBI
  - Extra “Security” (Badging Procedure)
  - Personnel is “Law Enforcement”
  - Separate, Secure “Staging” Area
  - Additional “Screening” and “Processing”
    - Retrieve Body Parts
    - Recover Sensitive Documents
    - Gather Crime Scene Evidence















# Landfill Disposal Capacity

- WTC 9/11- Re-Opened Fresh Kills Landfill (Staten Island Landfill)
- Hurricane Katrina - Lack of Disposal Capacity (complicated by quarantine)
  - Temporary “Staging and Processing Sites”
    - “Demolition Waste” Only (Temporary?)
  - Expansion / New Local Landfills

# FEMA Reimbursement

- Must Follow FEMA Guidelines
- Document Activity/Cost Resulting from Declared Disaster
- Include Description in City/County's Disaster Preparedness Plans
- LEA To Keep Documentation on Disaster Related Tasks / Expenditures (EPP)



# Recycling for Hurricane Katrina

- No FEMA Reimbursement for Recycling
- Inadequate Contract Provisions for Recycling by Army Corp of Engineers
- Politics (Need to Show “Activity”)
- Locals “Not Pursuing” Recycling
- No Local “Recycling Goals”

# Fraud Issues

- Examples of Fraud
  - Truck “Puff Volume” (when paid by volume)
  - Double Billing (multiple disasters)
  - Disposal Volume at Landfill
- Take Preventative Measures
- In-Place Contracts / Fees, etc.
- Monitoring / Enforcement

# LEA Experience

## “Why so important?”

- 1992 Civil Unrest
- 1994 Northridge earthquake
- No preplanning existed
- No staging or recycling areas designated
- No state emergency regulations existed

# Los Angeles Perspective

- All potential staging/transfer sites are under “local” control
- Local emergency must be declared by Mayor or governing body
- Local planning and code enforcement must work together to support emergency response effort
- Local knowledge and experience needed

# Local Coordination

- Demolition, disposal or recycling efforts are secondary to rescue and life safety
- Recovery efforts and will have priority until emergency phase is over
- Need for local planning and coordination by appropriate groups is critical to success during this period

# Disaster Debris Management

- Should Plan for:
  - Disaster Debris Collection,
  - Staging and Processing,
  - Recycling,
  - Transportation,
  - Disposal,
  - Landfill Closure and Post-Closure,
  - Monitoring and Enforcement.