Regional Response Planning

Marine Debris Regional Response Planning

Lisa Rider
on behalf of NOAA’s Marine Debris Program
Response Planning Project Goal

Improve preparedness for response to and recovery from acute waterway debris incidents in coastal states.

Note: Project only specifically addresses “acute” debris incidents, such as disaster debris, and may not apply to chronic marine debris issues.
Marine Debris Definition

Marine Debris
Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or Great Lakes (33 U.S.C. § 1956(3))

Waterway debris (Incident waterway debris)
Any solid material, including but not limited to vegetative debris and debris exposed to or that has the potential to release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, that enters a waterway following an acute incident and poses a threat to the natural or man-made environment. This may include shoreline and wetland debris and debris in some inland, non-tidal waterways
1. Develop actionable response and recovery plans for acute marine debris incidents in coastal states.

Consolidate waterway response information into a single document using information from existing plans, programs and agency authorities.

2. Conduct marine debris response exercises/drills to test plans and identify gaps in response.

Stand-alone exercises or as injects in larger response drills.
3. Support the integration of response plan content into other existing local, state, federal or regional plans and trainings.

*Such as U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plans, Emergency Management Plans, State Disaster Debris Management Plans, etc.*
Project Status
State Overview &
Plan Development Process
Other State Plans/Guides

North Carolina
- Published September 2016
- Annual update September 2017
Plan Development Process

1. Background research
2. Engage stakeholders: one on one
3. Document roles, responsibilities, point of contacts and jurisdictions
4. Outline permitting and compliance structure
5. Engage stakeholders: workshops
6. Plan writing
7. Stakeholder agency review
8. Plan publication
9. Ongoing plan maintenance and exercises
Plan Development Process

Federal Agencies

State Agencies (AL, FL, NC)

Local Agencies and Other Organizations
Response Plan Contents
Plan Contents

I. Introduction

II. Background Risk: Foreseeable Incidents and Debris Types

III. Agency Roles, Responsibilities, and Jurisdictions

IV. Permitting and Compliance Requirements

V. Gaps and Recommended Actions

VI. Agency Response Capabilities

VII. Agency Contact Information
## Plan Contents

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- ✔ Purpose
- ✔ Scope of Plan: functionally and geographically
- ✔ Plan Maintenance
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<th>Natural Hazards</th>
<th>Technological Hazards</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flooding</td>
<td>Transportation (Air/Sea/Rail)</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Low</td>
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<td>Tornados/Wind Storms</td>
<td>Terrorism</td>
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<td>Hurricanes</td>
<td>Hazmat (Fixed Facility)</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>Winter/Ice Storms</td>
<td>Hazmat (Transportation)</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Earthquakes</td>
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<td>Landslides/Subsidence</td>
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<td>Tsunamis</td>
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Field Reference Guide
Alabama Incident Waterway Debris Response Action Flowchart

**Start**

- Is waterway debris in a USACE federally maintained waterway or channel, or immediately adjacent thereto?
  - Yes
    - Does waterway debris have the potential to release oil or hazardous material?
      - Yes
        - FEMA provides funding but does not conduct debris removal work
        - FEMA Eligible Applicants must have legal responsibility to remove the debris and include state and local governments, Indian tribes, and certain non-profits
        - Public Assistance cost share is typically 75% FEMA, 25% state, 12.5% applicant
      - No
        - FEMA Direct Federal Assistance
          - FEMA mission assignment to another federal agency to perform or contract the debris removal work
          - USACE disposal of building debris hazards, such as household hazardous materials, spilled hazardous materials, and electronic goods under ESF 3
          - EPA or USCG may lead hazardous waste disposal under ESF 10
        - FEMA Public Assistance Funding
          - Reimbursement to eligible applicant to remove and dispose of hazardous waterway debris using their own forces or contract labor
          - Funding from FEMA to AEMA then to eligible applicant
          - If state is the eligible applicant, ADEQ may lead response under State ESF 10 in coordination with ADEQ
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  - No
    - Is waterway debris on private property?
      - Yes
        - Debris on private property
          - Report to homeowner’s insurance policy
      - No
        - Debris is in a maintained federal waterway
          - Report to ADEQ 1-800-426-8002

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  - Yes
    - Debris is in a maintained federal waterway
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  - No
    - Debris is in a maintained federal waterway
      - Report to ADEQ 1-800-426-8002

**Flowchart Key**

- Response action for waterway debris that has the potential to release oil or hazardous material
- Response action for waterway debris that is not oil or a hazardous material
  - Indicates response may occur under Stafford Act authorities and/or funds

**Waterway Debris Incident Waterway Debris:** Any solid material, oil, or hazardous material that enters a waterway following an acute release incident and poses a threat to the natural or man-made environment. This may include shoreline debris and debris in some inland, non-tidal waters.

**Removal authorized under NCP (ESF 10)**
- Report to NRC 1-800-426-8002 and AEMA Warning Point 1-800-643-0099
- FEMA funds may be used if not at pre-existing site under NCP. If NCP is known, must apply insurance proceeds first.
- Response managed at lowest jurisdictional level capable of handling the removal:
  - State
  - Federal
  - Private for State and Federal
  - AEMA is lead under State ESF 10 in coordination with ADEQ
- If federal assistance is required, USCG or EPA oversees response. Generally, response is managed by USCG in ACP Coastal Zone and by EPA in ACP Inland Zone.
- Under NCP, USCG/EPA may respond without a request from local, state, or tribal governments.

**FEMA Direct Federal Assistance**
- FEMA mission assignment to another federal agency to perform or contract the debris removal work
- USACE disposal of building debris hazards, such as household hazardous materials, spilled hazardous materials, and electronic goods under ESF 3
- EPA or USCG may lead hazardous waste disposal under ESF 10

**FEMA Public Assistance Funding**
- Reimbursement to eligible applicant to remove and dispose of hazardous waterway debris using their own forces or contract labor
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- Funding from FEMA to AEMA then to eligible applicant
- If state is the eligible applicant, ADEQ may lead response under State ESF 10 in coordination with ADEQ

- FEMA provides funding but does not conduct debris removal work
- FEMA Eligible Applicants must have legal responsibility to remove the debris and include state and local governments, Indian tribes, and certain non-profits
- Public Assistance cost share is typically 75% FEMA, 25% state, 12.5% applicant

**EWP Eligibility Determination by NRCS**
- Result of Presidential or NRCS State Conservationist Declared Disaster
- Waterway debris is not in coastal or tidally-influenced waters
- Waterway debris is result of natural disaster
- Recovery measures are for non-flood or erosion protection
- Waterway debris is a threat to life and/or property
- Event caused a sudden impact to the waterbody
- Imminent threat was created by this event
- Flood economic, environmental, and social documentation adequate to warrant removal action
- Proposed removal action is technically viable
Process to Stay in Compliance

Agency Contact Information and Details
## Capabilities Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Baldwin County EMA</th>
<th>Mobile County EMA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIS mapping and plotting of imagery</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side scan sonar</td>
<td>Contract</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-beam sonar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single-beam sonar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote sensing capabilities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manpower</th>
<th>Baldwin County EMA</th>
<th>Mobile County EMA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer manpower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical expertise for removal operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental expertise (location of sensitive areas, endangered species present, etc.)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Baldwin County EMA</th>
<th>Mobile County EMA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIS mapping and plotting of imagery</td>
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<tr>
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<thead>
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<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Baldwin County EMA</th>
<th>Mobile County EMA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Docks for wet storage of vessels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Staging area for dry storage of vessels</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-designated landfill/disposal sites</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-event contracts and staged agreements in place</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract authority and oversight capabilities</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land with water access to offload (has not been evaluated for suitability or officially pre-designated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-designated staging, off-loading and special handling areas (already evaluated for suitability)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other logistical support, including fuel, housing, food, etc.</td>
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Next Steps
Response Planning Next Steps

• Coordinate with partner agencies to incorporate marine debris response scenarios into planned exercises and drills

• Host marine debris-centric exercises with partner agencies

• Support incorporation of content into other existing plans
Regional Response Planning

Questions?

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