

Contaminated Debris Interagency Workgroup



Background

- The contaminated debris mission is complex and involves utilizing all the resources of the Federal government.
- Contaminated debris, unlike regular debris, poses unique technical challenges (characterization, handling, treatment, transportation, and disposal).
- Requires different level of expertise (technical managers, contractors and equipment).

Background

- Intersection of contamination and debris missions.
- Overlaps USACE and EPA responsibilities.
- NRF states that mission will be a “joint” effort.
- Need to align technical expertise, resources and legal authorities.



IWG History

- In 2005, FEMA completed review process that examined implications of contaminated debris associated with CBRN event, upon response and recovery operations.
- Review culminated in Contaminated Debris Management Workshop held in 8/05
- Several Federal agencies examined related interagency response and recovery issues.

IWG History Cont.

- Workgroup met again in 11/06
- Holding regular conference calls and meetings
- Workgroup is comprised of representatives from EPA, USACE, DHS, USCG, OSHA, DOE, and DOT.
- Executive Steering Group: FEMA, EPA and USACE



IWG Mission Statement

- The purpose of the Contaminated Debris Interagency Working Group is to forge a common understanding of each participating agency's roles and responsibilities related to contaminated debris incidents.
- The Group contributes to interagency preparedness, and response and recovery capabilities through the evaluation of current policies, planning and programmatic resources and authorities for contaminated debris incidents to determine their sufficiency; and identify other requirements needed to successfully communicate and implement response and recovery strategies for contaminated debris incidents.



IWG Objectives

- Establish the framework for an Interagency Contaminated Debris Task Force (CDTF).
- Develop a strategic document (e.g. SOP, FOGs) for an Interagency Contaminated Debris Task Force.
- Develop an exercise for the CDTF that emphasizes JFO-level contaminated debris management during response and recovery activities and how it will interact with other ESF debris mission operations.
- Identify interagency contaminated debris management issues in selected White Papers.

IWG Objectives cont...

- Facilitate development of working Subgroups within IWG to pursue issues or subject matter for the CDTF, focus on particular contaminated debris issues from the DHS national scenarios, discuss process for identifying/profiling future CDTF members, etc.
- Identify the need for and facilitate interagency agreements, MOUs and pre-scripted mission assignments needed for contaminated debris management.
- Clarify agency roles, responsibilities and functions pertaining to contaminated debris management.
- Develop outreach process for Federal, state, local agencies and tribal entities involved in contaminated debris management and related issues.



IWG Work Products

- Contaminated Debris Task Force Concept and SOP
- Data Management/sharing white paper
- Field Coordination white paper
- USACE/EPA/FEMA MOU
- Pre-scripted Mission Assignments



Contaminated Debris Task Force Mission

- The CDTF will provide incident specific technical and management advisory support to the infrastructure and emergency services branch directors, FCO and incident command post(s).

CDTF Objectives

- Provide advisory support services to the JFO leadership related to contaminated debris management including:
 - Strategic planning
 - Facilitate communications and reporting (to and from the JFO and to and from the ICP)
 - Situational awareness and evaluation
 - Capabilities and resources
 - Technical and regulatory assistance to the JFO
 - Agency roles, responsibilities and functions

CDTF Positions

- ICDTF Leader
- Debris TS
- Chemical TS
- Biological TS
- Radiological TS
- Explosives TS
- Health/Safety TS
- State TS

MOU Purpose

- Clearly outline leadership and support roles and responsibilities for EPA and USACE in contaminated debris management.
- Guide FEMA in issuing Mission Assignments.
- Prompt advance inter agency planning and preparedness activities.

MOU Scope

- Applied to major disasters or emergencies declared by POTUS (Stafford Act).
- Focus on contaminated debris generated by a CBRN explosion incident. (i.e. contaminated debris field such as IND/RDD)
- Limitations:
 - Does not apply to non-explosive CBRN or contamination incidents (i.e. anthrax, hazmat/oil spills) – Sole ESF-10 lead.
 - Does not apply to "Ordinary" debris that contains hazardous building materials (lead paint, asbestos, etc.) – Sole ESF-3 lead



ESF-10

- EPA, through ESF-10, will lead hazardous materials response activities, including management of contaminated debris.
 - Prevent, minimize or mitigate the release.
 - Detect and assess extent of contamination
 - Analyze and implement clean up actions, including decon of structures
 - Manage waste storage, treatment and disposal



ESF-3

- USACE, through ESF-3, will lead the following contaminated debris missions:
 - Emergency clearing of contaminated debris during the emergency response phase (clearing roads, etc.) to facilitate safe ingress and egress corridors.
 - Evaluate and stabilize structural instability threats
 - Demolition of unstable contaminated buildings / infrastructure (in consultation with EPA & FEMA)



Support Roles and Responsibilities

- EPA and USACE can also provide support to the lead ESFs through sub-tasking.
- Sub-tasks will be issued based on the complexity of the incident (type of CBRN agent, size, scale and amount of contaminated debris).

EPA Support to ESF-3

EPA can provide the following support to ESF-3:

- Technical assistance during assessment and stabilization of damaged infrastructure.
- Technical assistance and consultation on demolition strategies.

USACE Support to ESF-10

USACE can provide the following support to ESF-10:

- Mitigate and management of contaminated runoff and/or wastewater;
- Sampling and analysis for contaminated debris characterization;
- Removal of contaminated debris from blast zones to staging sites;
- Treatment, transportation and disposal of contaminated debris;
- Removal of highly contaminated soils under the debris zone.

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Questions and Discussion