



# NOAA's Marine Debris Program:

## Marine Debris Emergency

## Response Guides

November 27, 2018

Jason Rolfe, Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator  
Marine Debris Program, NOAA



# What is Marine Debris

**Any solid man-made material**

**Directly**  
(from a ship or  
ocean platform)



**Indirectly**  
(storm drains,  
tourism, etc.)



**Intentionally  
disposed**



**Unintentionally  
abandoned**



**into our marine environment**

# From Micro to Macro



# Marine Debris Program Pillars

R  
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S  
E  
A  
R  
C  
H



*Near Dog River, AL, Credit: DISL*

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



*Debris from Hurricane Katrina*

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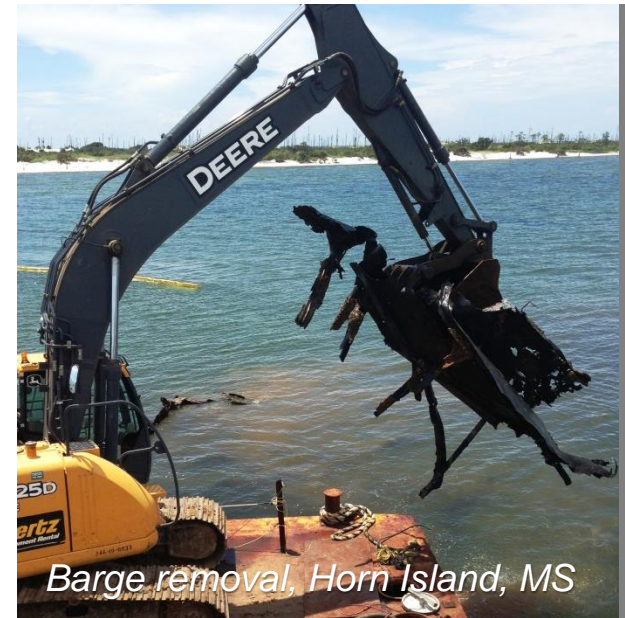


*Watching unmanned watercraft*



*Regional workshop*

COORDINATION



*Barge removal, Horn Island, MS*

R  
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# Response History

## 2005-2012: Case-by-case

- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005)
- American Samoa Tsunami (2009)
- Japan Tsunami (2011)
- Super Storm Sandy (2012)



NAVIGATION

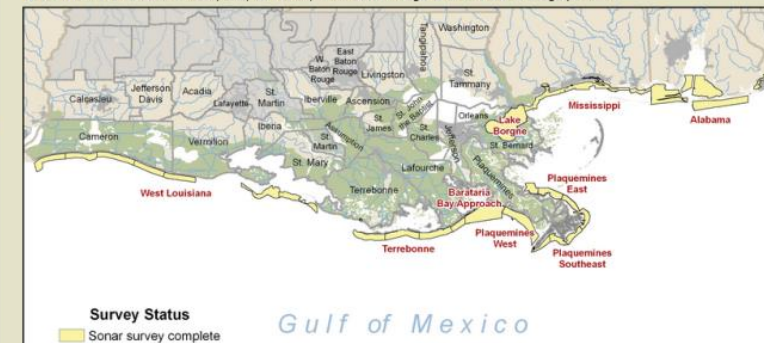
- [Project Description](#)
- [Mapping and Data](#)
- > [Project Map](#)
- > [Interactive Map](#)
- > [Data Analysis](#)
- Other Content
- > [Emergency Response Plan](#)
- > [Marine Debris Dispersion Model](#)
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### Welcome to the Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project Web Site

by admin — last modified 2010-09-02 00:42

Click on the **name** of the area of interest to view survey chart index for that area.

**Note:** There are no data for Lafayette, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge parishes.



# Supplemental Hurricane Funding

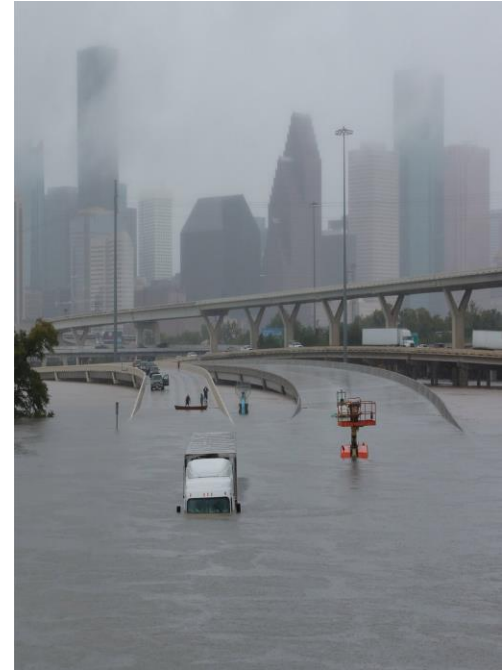
## 2017 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 provides \$18 million in emergency supplemental appropriations for marine debris assessment, removal, and disposal

Working with Texas, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

Debris identified for removal includes:

- derelict oil platform, well infrastructure, septic tanks, piers
- abandoned vessels, derelict fishing gear, dock debris
- debris from coastal homes and businesses
- scattered debris blown/stranded in sensitive habitats



# Response History

## 2012: MDP Reauthorization

- Includes specific language on response mandate

## 2014: Response Planning

- Internal: Developing a response framework and list of core services
- External: Working with relevant agencies to create Regional Response Guides



# Project Goal

Improve preparedness for response to and recovery from **acute marine debris incidents** in coastal states

what

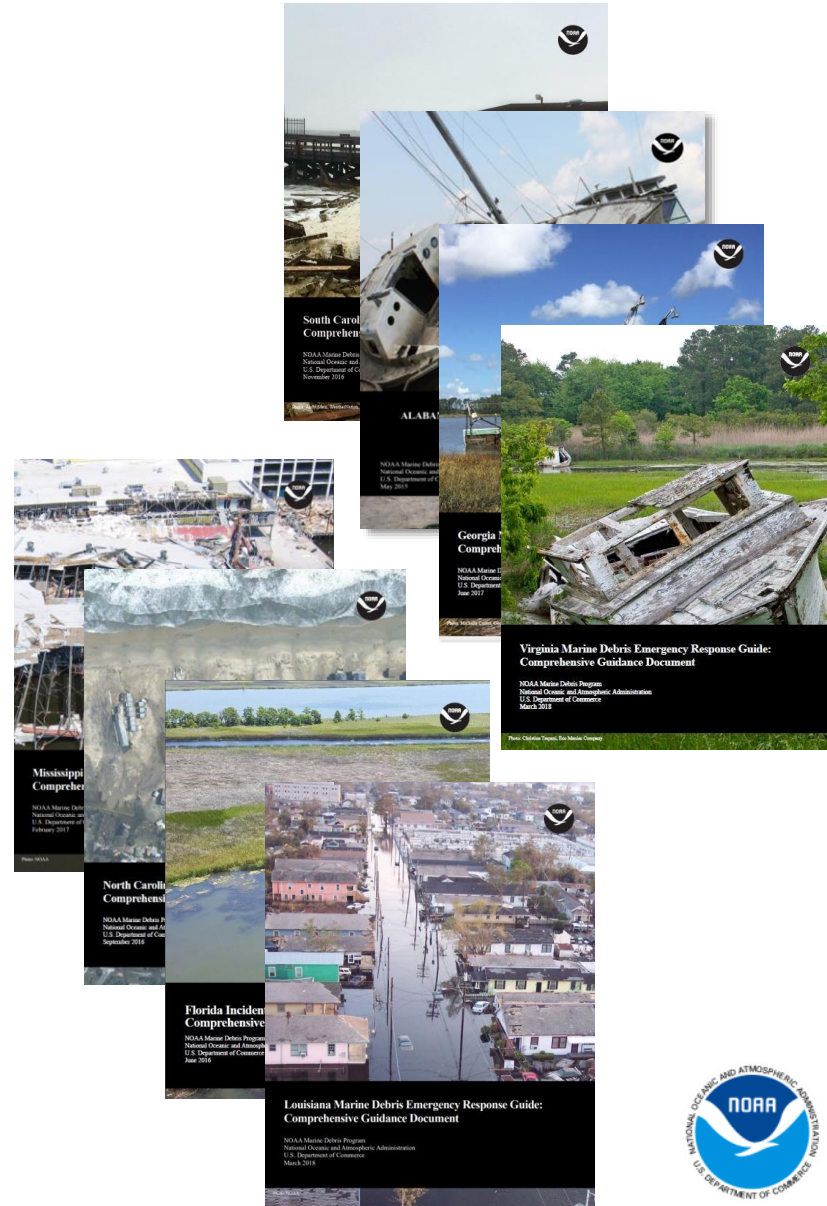
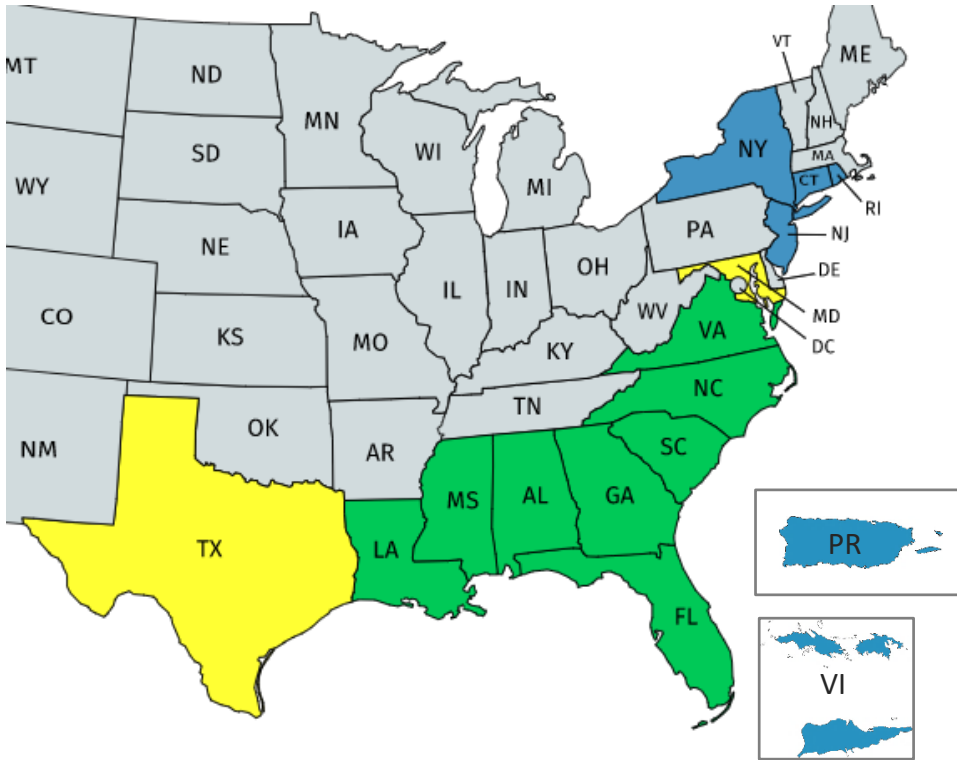
how

Outline **existing** response structures, procedures, and responsibilities at the local, state, and federal levels into **individual state guidance documents**



# National Project Status

- 8 Published & Complete
- 2 In Development
- 6 Passive Research Complete



# Some Definitions...

## **Marine debris (NOAA definition)**

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.



# Project Objectives

1. Develop **guidance document** that facilitates the response to and recovery from acute waterway debris incidents in coastal Virginia

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

2. Conduct waterway debris response **exercises/drills** to increase preparedness, validate guide information, and identify response challenges

*Stand-alone exercises or as injects in larger response drills and exercises*



# Project Objectives

3. Support the **integration** of response guide content into other existing local, state, or regional plans and trainings

*Such as EPA/U.S. Coast Guard Area Contingency Plans, state and county emergency management plans, etc.*



# Project Scope

- Focus on **waterway debris**
  - Solid material (including vegetative debris)
  - Result of acute disaster incident
  - Poses a threat
  - Can include shoreline and wetland debris, or debris in inland non-tidal waterways
- Guide and outreach focused on **Virginia's coastal zone**
  - Information in guidance document is applicable to all of state
- Target **audience**: All levels of government, responders



# Virginia Project Scope



- Virginia's Coastal Zone includes all of the following 29 counties:
  - Accomack, Arlington, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Essex, Fairfax, Gloucester, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King George, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Westmoreland, York



# Guide Development Process: Work To Date for Maryland Guide

1. Background research, *Late 2017*
2. Engage stakeholders – one on one, *Winter '17-Spring '18*
3. Document roles, responsibilities, points of contact, and jurisdictions, *2017-Present*
4. Outline permitting and compliance structure, *2017-Present*
5. Engage stakeholders – workshop, *August 2018*
6. Document edits and finalization, *Summer 2018*
7. Stakeholder review, *Fall-Winter 2018*
8. Publication, *Fall '18-Winter '19*



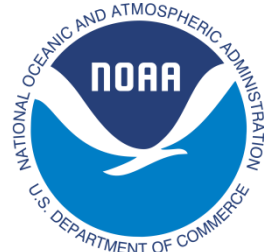
# Coordination To Date



US Army Corps of Engineers®



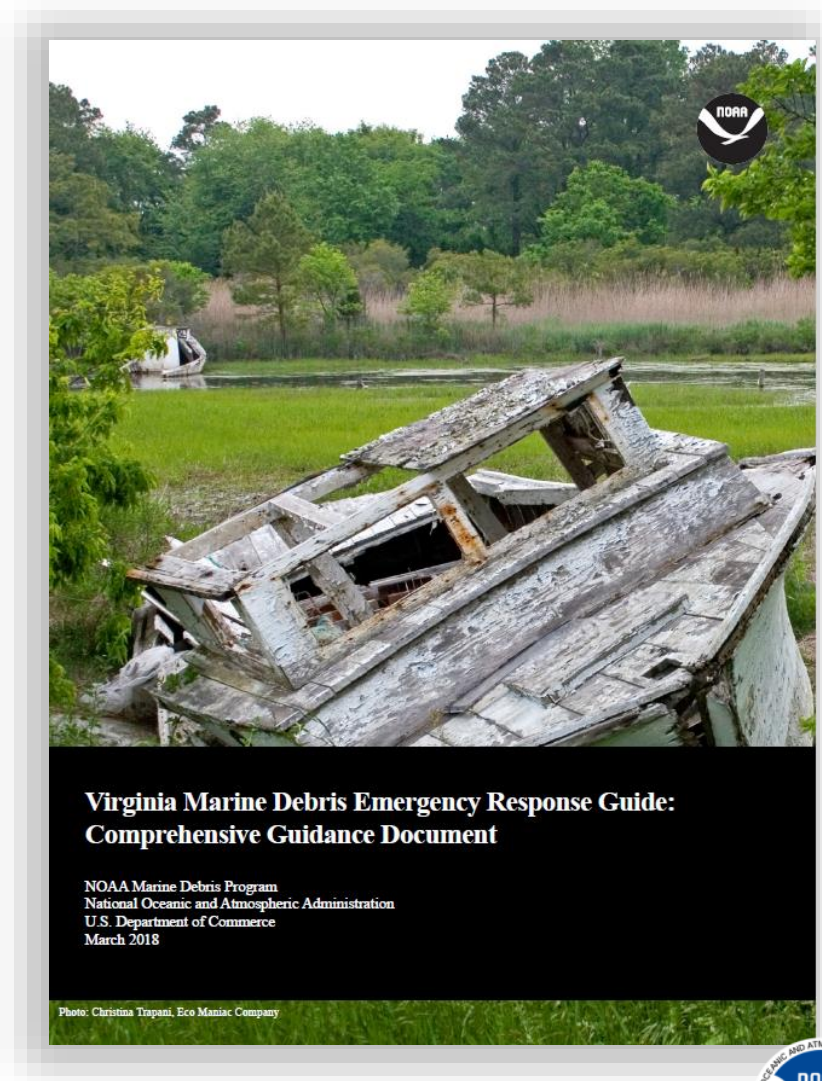
FEMA





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✓ **Purpose**

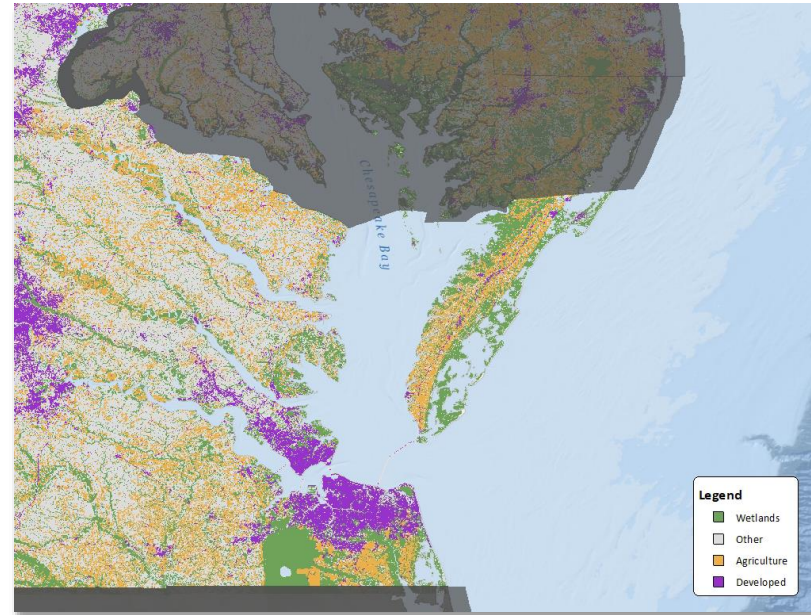
✓ **Scope of Guide:  
functionally and  
geographically**

✓ **Guide  
Maintenance**



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	Typical Debris Streams									
	Vegetative	Construction and Demolition (C&D)	Oil and Hazardous Material	Household Hazardous Waste	White Goods	Soil, Mud, and Sand	Vehicles and Vehicles	Putrescent or Infectious	Household/Personal Property	
<b>Natural Hazards</b>										
Hurricanes/Tropical Storms	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Flooding	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tornadoes/Wind Storms	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Earthquakes		X	X	X	X	X			X	
Winter/Ice Storms	X			X						
Tsunamis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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- ✓ **Local Role**
  - ✓ **State Role**
  - ✓ **Federal Role**
  - ✓ **NGOs/Volunteer Organizations**
  - ✓ **Private Landowners**



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## I. Introduction

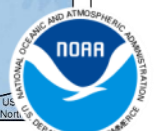
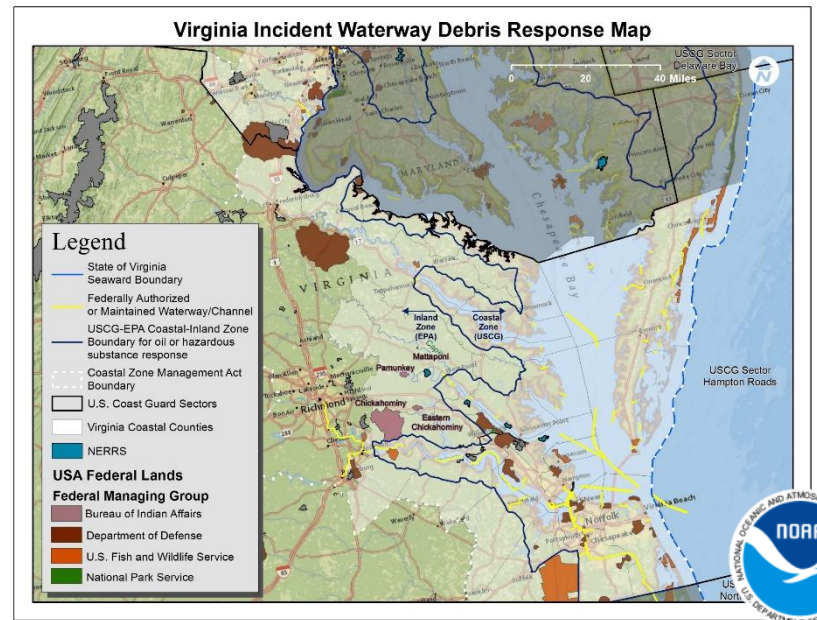
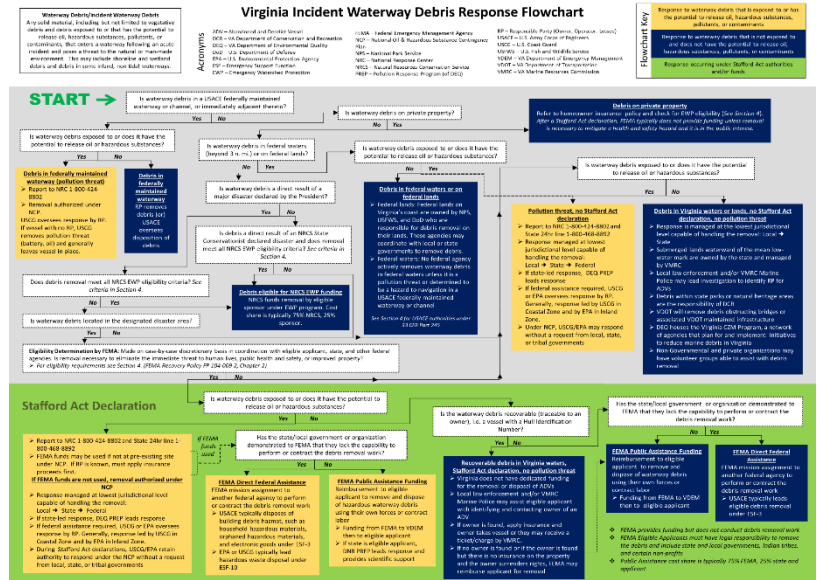
## II. Background Risk: Foreseeable Incidents and Debris Types

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# Virginia Incident Waterway Debris Response Flowchart

**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.

## Acronyms

ADV – Abandoned and Derelict Vessel  
DCR – VA Department of Conservation and Recreation  
DEQ – VA Department of Environmental Quality  
DoD – U.S. Department of Defense  
EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
ESF – Emergency Support Function  
EWP – Emergency Watershed Protection

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
NCP – National Oil & Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan  
NPS – National Park Service  
NRC – National Response Center  
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
PREP – Pollution Response Program (of DEQ)

RP – Responsible Party (Owner, Operator, Lessee)  
USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
USCG – U.S. Coast Guard  
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
VDEM – VA Department of Emergency Management  
VDOT – VA Department of Transportation  
VMRC – VA Marine Resources Commission

Flowchart Key	Response to waterway debris that is exposed to or has the potential to release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants
	Response to waterway debris that is not exposed to and does not have the potential to release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants
	Response occurring under Stafford Act authorities and/or funds

**START** →

Is waterway debris in a USACE federally maintained waterway or channel, or immediately adjacent thereto?  
Yes No

Is waterway debris exposed to or does it have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances?  
Yes No

**Debris in federally maintained waterway (pollution threat)**  
➢ Report to NRC 1-800-424-8802  
➢ Removal authorized under NCP.  
USCG oversees response by RP. If vessel with no RP, USCG removes pollution threat (battery, oil) and generally leaves vessel in place.

**Debris in federally maintained waterway**  
RP removes debris (or) USACE oversees disposition of debris

Is waterway debris in federal waters (beyond 3 n. mi.) or on federal lands?  
No Yes

Is waterway debris a direct result of a major disaster declared by the President?  
Yes No

Is debris a direct result of an NRCS State Conservationist declared disaster and does removal meet all NRCS EWP eligibility criteria? See criteria in Section 4.  
Yes No

**Debris eligible for NRCS EWP funding**  
NRCS funds removal by eligible sponsor under EWP program. Cost share is typically 75% NRCS, 25% sponsor.

Does debris removal meet all NRCS EWP eligibility criteria? See criteria in Section 4.  
No Yes

Is waterway debris located in the designated disaster area?  
Yes No

**Eligibility Determination by FEMA:** Made on case-by-case discretionary basis in coordination with eligible applicant, state, and other federal agencies. Is removal necessary to eliminate the immediate threat to human lives, public health and safety, or improved property?  
➢ For eligibility requirements see Section 4. (FEMA Recovery Policy FP 104-009-2, Chapter 2)

Is waterway debris on private property?  
No Yes

**Debris on private property**  
Refer to homeowner insurance policy and check for EWP eligibility (See Section 4). After a Stafford Act declaration, FEMA typically does not provide funding unless removal is necessary to mitigate a health and safety hazard and it is in the public interest.

Is waterway debris exposed to or does it have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances?  
No Yes

**Debris in federal waters or on federal lands**  
➢ Federal lands: Federal lands on Virginia's coast are owned by NPS, USFWS, and DoD who are responsible for debris removal on their lands. These agencies may coordinate with local or state governments to remove debris.  
➢ Federal waters: No federal agency actively removes waterway debris in federal waters unless it is a pollution threat or determined to be a hazard to navigation in a USACE federally maintained waterway or channel.  
See Section 4 for USACE authorities under 33 CFR Part 245

Is waterway debris exposed to or does it have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances?  
Yes No

**Pollution threat, no Stafford Act declaration**  
➢ Report to NRC 1-800-424-8802 and State 24hr line 1-800-468-8892  
➢ Response managed at lowest jurisdictional level capable of handling the removal: Local → State → Federal  
➢ If state-led response, DEQ/PRP leads response  
➢ If federal assistance required, USCG or EPA oversees response by RP. Generally, response led by USCG in Coastal Zone and by EPA in Inland Zone.  
➢ Under NCP, USCG/EPA may respond without a request from local, state, or tribal governments

**Debris in Virginia waters or lands, no Stafford Act declaration, no pollution threat**  
➢ Response is managed at the lowest jurisdictional level capable of handling the removal: Local → State  
➢ Submerged lands waterward of the mean low-water mark are owned by the state and managed by VMRC  
➢ Local law enforcement and/or VMRC Marine Police may lead investigation to identify RP for ADVs  
➢ Debris within state parks or natural heritage areas are the responsibility of DCR  
➢ VDOT will remove debris obstructing bridges or associated VDOT maintained infrastructure  
➢ DEQ houses the Virginia CZM Program, a network of agencies that plan for and implement initiatives to reduce marine debris in Virginia  
➢ Non-Governmental and private organizations may have volunteer groups able to assist with debris removal

## Stafford Act Declaration

Is waterway debris exposed to or does it have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances?  
Yes No

➢ Report to NRC 1-800-424-8802 and State 24hr line 1-800-468-8892  
➢ FEMA funds may be used if not at pre-existing site under NCP. If RP is known, must apply insurance proceeds first.  
**If FEMA funds are not used, removal authorized under NCP**

➢ Response managed at lowest jurisdictional level capable of handling the removal: Local → State → Federal  
➢ If state-led response, DEQ/PRP leads response  
➢ If federal assistance required, USCG or EPA oversees response by RP. Generally, response led by USCG in Coastal Zone and by EPA in Inland Zone.  
➢ During Stafford Act declarations, USCG/EPA retain authority to respond under the NCP without a request from local, state, or tribal governments

Has the state/local government or organization demonstrated to FEMA that they lack the capability to perform or contract the debris removal work?  
Yes No

**FEMA Direct Federal Assistance**  
FEMA mission assignment to another federal agency to perform or contract the debris removal work  
➢ USACE typically disposes of building debris hazmat, such as household hazardous materials, orphaned hazardous materials, and electronic goods under ESF-3  
➢ EPA or USCG typically 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 VDEM then to eligible applicant  
➢ If state is eligible applicant, DNR/PRP leads response and provides scientific support

Is the waterway debris recoverable (traceable to an owner), i.e. a vessel with a Hull Identification Number?  
Yes No

**Recoverable debris in Virginia waters, Stafford Act declaration, no pollution threat**  
➢ Virginia does not have dedicated funding for the removal or disposal of ADVs  
➢ Local law enforcement and/or VMRC Marine Police may assist eligible applicant with identifying and contacting owner of an ADV  
➢ If owner is found, apply insurance and owner takes vessel or they may receive a ticket/charge by VMRC.  
➢ If no owner is found or if the owner is found but there is no insurance on the property and the owner surrenders rights, FEMA may reimburse applicant for removal

Has the state/local government or organization demonstrated to FEMA that they lack the capability to perform or contract the debris removal work?  
No Yes

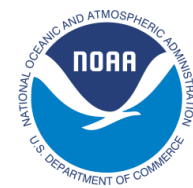
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Reimbursement to eligible applicant to remove and dispose of waterway debris using their own forces or contract labor  
➢ Funding from FEMA to VDEM then to eligible applicant

**FEMA Direct Federal Assistance**  
FEMA mission assignment to another federal agency to perform or contract the debris removal work  
➢ USACE typically leads eligible debris removal under ESF-3

❖ 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 and applicant

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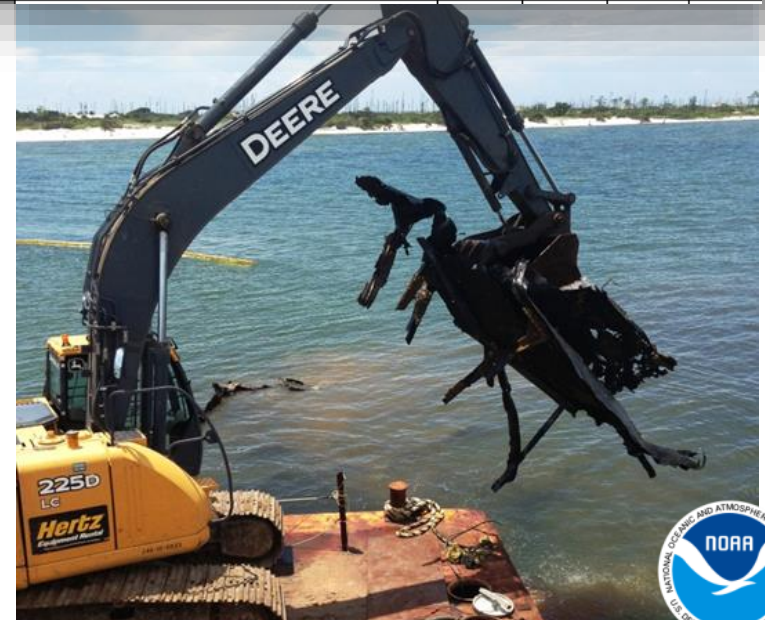
Agency	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District	Compliance and permitting expertise	Mobile District, Regulatory Division	251-690-2658	
	Federally maintained waterway or channel	Duane Poiroux, Operations Division	251-690-2576	
	Response capabilities	Bo Ansley, Emergency Management	251-690-2027	
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), District 8, Sector Mobile	Potential to release oil or hazardous material	National Response Center (NRC)	1-800-424-8802	
	Response capabilities	USCG Sector Mobile Command Center	251-441-6211	
EPA, Region IV	Potential to release oil or hazardous material	National Response Center (NRC)	1-800-424-8802	
	Response capabilities and coordination	Leo Francendese, On Scene Coordinator, EPA Region IV	404-606-2223	
FEMA, Region IV	Funding following Presidential disaster declaration	Contact local Emergency Management Agency	-	
	GIS mapping and plotting of imagery	David Lawson, Region IV GIS Coordinator	770-220-5504	
	Technical expertise for removal operations and environmental, compliance and permitting expertise	Valerie Rhoads, Public Assistance Branch Chief	770-220-5618	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Bon Secour NWR and response capabilities	Brittany Petersen, Assistant Refuge Manager	251-540-7720	
	Compliance and permitting expertise	Alabama Ecological Services Field Office Bill Pearson, Field Supervisor	251-441-5181 251-441-5870	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Emergency ESA/EFH Consultation	-	-	
	EFH information	Rusty Swafford	409-766-3699	
		General Contact		727-824-5312
	ESA information	Kyle Baker		727-551-5789
		Dennis Klemm		727-551-5777
Potential to release oil or hazardous material	Adam Davis, Scientific Support Coordinator for USCG District 8		251-544-5012 (O), 206-375-5697 (24hr)	
Response capabilities and coordination	Kim Albins, Gulf of Mexico Regional Coordinator, Marine Debris Program		251-544-5013 (O), 251-222-0276 (C)	
Natural Resource Conservation	Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Information	Diane Guthrie, P.E., State Conservation Engineer	334-887-4536	
	Baldwin County	Joey Koptis, District Conservationist	251-937-3297x3	



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Yes - In-house Capability		Baldwin County EMA	Mobile County EMA	ADCNR	ADEM
Contract - Contracted capability					
Technology	GIS mapping and plotting of imagery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Side scan sonar	-	Contract	Yes	-
	Multi-beam sonar	-	-	-	-
	Single-beam sonar	-	-	Yes	-
	Remote sensing capabilities	-	-	-	-
Manpower	Volunteer manpower	Contract	Contract	Yes	-
	Technical expertise for removal operations	-	-	Yes	-
	Environmental expertise (location of sensitive areas, endangered species present, etc.)	-	-	Yes	Yes
	Compliance and permitting expertise	-	-	Yes	Yes
Equipment	Dive support	-	Contract	Yes	-
	Vessels	-	-	Yes	Yes
	Aircraft	-	-	-	-
	Barge, Self-loading barge	-	-	-	-
	Crane, Knuckleboom Crane	-	-	-	-
	Excavator	-	-	-	-
	Boom	-	-	-	-
	Surplus parts for terrestrial and marine work	-	-	-	-
	Surveillance drones	-	-	-	-
	Other specialized equipment that cannot be readily procured immediately following a debris incident	-	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>	-



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## *Field Reference Guide*



# Questions?



[www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com)

Jason Rolfe  
jason.rolfe@noaa.gov  
240-533-0442

