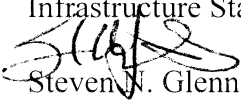




FEMA

July 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Infrastructure Staff
FROM: 
Steven N. Glenn, Chief
Infrastructure Branch
SUBJECT: Regional Guidance # R4-RR-PA-07-07-05-03
Use of Hand-Loaded Trailers and Trucks in Debris Removal Operations

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IV, will account for the use of hand-loaded trailers and trucks in debris removal operations.

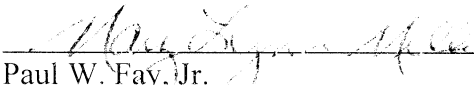
ISSUE: FEMA reimburses applicants for reasonable costs of the volume of debris actually hauled. In recent years, debris haulers under contract with local governments have supplemented their vegetative debris removal operations by hiring subcontractors that modify their trucks and trailers by extending sidewalls with plywood or other materials to increase the vehicle's load capacity. Because of the tenuous nature of these improvements, the operators usually load these vehicles by hand. The increased capacity of these vehicles is negated by the inefficiencies of loading the trailers or trucks by hand, instead of using mechanical equipment. Hand loading cannot achieve compaction levels comparable to mechanically-loaded vehicles. The unit cost for transporting debris is based on mechanical loading of trailers or trucks. FEMA debris staff performed studies throughout the State of Florida following the four devastating hurricanes in 2004 and determined that a mechanically-loaded vehicle rated at 100 percent full typically had a weight-to-volume ratio at least twice that of hand-loaded vehicles. In other words, vehicles that are loaded with mechanical equipment carry at least twice as much debris as those loaded by hand when of equivalent measured capacity. Therefore, FEMA will not reimburse applicants at the same rate for mechanically-loaded vehicles as hand-loaded vehicles.

GUIDANCE: Debris monitors located at temporary or final debris disposal sites will reduce the observed capacity of each hand-loaded trailer or truck load by 50 percent because of the low compaction achieved by hand loading. For example, if a 40 cubic-yard (CY) hand-loaded truck or trailer arrives at the debris management or disposal site, and it appears to be 100 percent full, the actual quantity of debris in the trailer will be recorded as: 20 CY $\{(40 \text{ CY} / 2) * 100\%\}$. In the same manner, if the truck or trailer appears half full, the load will be recorded as: 10 CY $\{(40 \text{ CY} / 2) * 50\%\}$. The maximum amount recorded for a hand-loaded vehicle will be 50 percent of its measured capacity.

Effective Date

This Regional Guidance is effective on July 7, 2005.

Concurrence:


Paul W. Fay, Jr.
Director, Response and Recovery Division
www.fema.gov