



Guidance on Requesting VDEM Supported Waterway Debris Removal Operations

VDEM will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis. Key factors that will determine if VDEM will be able to support a waterway debris mission include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment that the locality has exceeded its capability to remove debris from the disaster
- Availability of funding
- Completeness of mission request
- Eligibility under current FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) established under P.L 93-288 (Stafford Act)
- Determination of cost reasonableness and necessity of debris removal (2 CFR 200)
- Availability of contractor support
- Commitment from local government to support the coordination of efforts
- Ability for local government to secure right of entries to access waterway debris through private property
- Ability to enter waterways during sensitive timeframes and with approval from Department of Wildlife Resources
- Environmental and/or Historic Preservation requirements
- Other funding sources that might be available to support

Overview and Requirements

- Debris must be related to the disaster for which the mission is being requested.
- VDEM support is limited to picking up disaster related debris that is eligible according to the PAPPG. This includes debris that poses an immediate threat to improved facilities/properties, such as when the debris:
 - Obstructs, or could obstruct, intake structures;
 - Could cause damage to structures, such as bridges and culverts; or
 - Is causing, or could cause, flooding to improved public or private property during the occurrence of a flood that has a 20% chance of occurring in any given year (5- year flood);
- If made available, local governments are encouraged to apply to the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) for funding for waterway debris removal. This mission is not intended to replace your efforts to utilize funding from NRCS. Many of the sites identified by NRCS are not eligible in accordance with the PAPPG and will not be considered under this mission.

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- VDEM supported debris removal operations cannot pick up debris from federally maintained navigable waterways but may request assistance through U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A separate mission should be submitted in WebEOC.
- VDEM supported debris removal operations will require local coordination, including identifying disposal site, coordination with volunteer and faith-based organizations, public messaging, and obtaining private property right of entries (when needed).
- VDEM supported debris removal operations must be eligible in accordance with the PAPG and will dictate what debris VDEM is able to pick up and what we cannot pick up.
- VDEM supported debris operations must have a debris removal contractor and a separate debris monitoring contractor. The Department of General Services (DGS) has a pre-disaster negotiated contract.
- VDEM supported debris removal operations are purposeful and planned to identify as much debris in each locality as possible to get an accurate scope of work and reasonable cost estimate from vendors on the statewide contract
- Waterway debris removal is tedious and time consuming, with a lot of requirements prior to any equipment being used.
- There will be ramp-up time to assess statewide debris needs, identify a scope of work, and negotiate with contractors on the statewide debris contract, and develop public messaging, and ensure compliance and adherence to all environmental and historical concerns and regulations.
- VDEM supported debris removal operations require significant coordination with the Virginia Department of General Services, Environmental Quality, Transportation, Conservation and Recreation, Wildlife Resources, federal agencies, and volunteer and faith-based organizations.
- A separate mission must be submitted for curbside (land based) debris (see separate guidance)
- VDEM supported debris removal operations will not duplicate efforts already being taken by VDOT and will not remove debris that poses an immediate threat to VDOT infrastructure that they are responsible for removing.
- VDEM will need exact coordinates (latitude and longitude), photos, and a description of threat. Please refer to VDEM Damage Assessment guidance for acceptable documentation.

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Waterway Debris WebEOC Request for Assistance (RFA) Requirements

- Waterway debris removal requests should be comprehensive, and like all requests use the CSALTT (Capability, Size, Amount, Location, Type, and Time) criteria. Mission requests must include:
- Important local contacts to include public works, waste management, emergency management, public information officer, and others as appropriate.
- Location of Specific Waterway Debris Sites by using Crisis Track
 - Option #1 (Optimal Model)
 - Field visits to each site, capture entry in Crisis Track with photos
 - Identify waterway sites that pose an immediate threat (see definition above) and potentially PA eligible.
 - Identify immediate threat sites that will need a right of entry to access debris. Local governments must be able to obtain a right of entry.
 - Identify immediate threat sites that require equipment to enter the water to access debris.
 - Export list of sites from crisis track
 - Option #2 (Limited Data Model – will require more resources and take longer to process)
 - Locality performs desktop identification in crisis track by utilizing the debris draw function to identify waterway debris locations.
 - Export locations from crisis track
 - Locality will still need to identify sites that require right of entry, and must be able to obtain a right of entry
 - Request resources to assess sites for PA eligibility
 - List the name, address, phone number, and contact of the appropriate landfill/disposal site where the debris will be disposed
 - Identify if the debris site is outside of your city/county

The following language should be included in the RFA:

Under my authority, I (Insert Chief Elected Official), as the Chief Elected Official or as the Authorized Designee of (Insert Locality), am requesting the Commonwealth of Virginia conduct waterway-based debris removal and debris monitoring operations for sites deemed to be eligible for Public Assistance within our jurisdiction. Our jurisdiction's solid waste management program is unable to support this need within our community and (insert locality) authorizes the

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Commonwealth to conduct these operations on our behalf. I will ensure that the appropriate staff is available to work collaboratively with the State in the execution of this operation.

Your local point of contact will be (insert name, title, email, and phone number

Debris Disposal Locations

I do/do not have a debris disposal site within my local jurisdiction that is permitted by DEQ. The location is (insert address), and contact phone number is (insert number).

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that state debris support will be limited to debris that is accessible from a publicly owned road, public property, or through a signed right of entry from a private property owner. (insert locality) is responsible for obtaining signed rights of entry. The state debris support will not duplicate work already being done by my local jurisdiction, Virginia Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture, National Resource Conservation Agency, or other agencies that have specific jurisdiction over debris in the waterways. I acknowledge that there may be a cost share associated with this request.

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