



## Administration

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### I. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

1. Agency Name: Mesa County Health Department
2. Project Title: Mesa County ESF3 Debris Recycling and Recovery Annex
3. Name of Project Manager: Greg Rajnowski
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5. Name of person(s) completing this report: Greg Rajnowski
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### II. WORK PLAN

Deliverable	Completion Date	Comments
Plan Draft and Review	March 25th, 2009	This plan will continue to move through a review and revision process with County stakeholders. LEPC and Departmental revisions and inter-departmental discussions will need to take place before the plan is finalized and adopted.
Research and Plan Development-Debris Management Workshop	Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2009	
Community and Stakeholder Participation	LEPC Review May 14th, 2009	Plan draft sent for review to the Mesa County LEPC. Planning Review by the local LEPC and information for website revisions will continue beyond the grant period.

### **III. GRANT PROJECT INFORMATION**

#### **1. Project Description & Overview**

Mesa County Health Department, Emergency Management and Waste Management have collaborated to develop an ESF3: Debris Recycling and Recovery Annex (Draft) to the County Emergency Operations Plan and feasibility planning for disaster debris recovery efforts that will continue beyond the scope of the grant.

The status of C&D recycling and recovery in Mesa County was identified as a current and future concern for debris recovery and recycling efforts. With a small amount being recycled onsite and an even smaller percentage being handled by private haulers future coordinated efforts will need to be taken by Mesa County and the cities of Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade (and to a lesser extent Collbran and Whitewater) to ensure diversion and recycling take opportunities are available.

The potential success of this effort is supported by the groundwork laid by this grant work, the Residential and Commercial Survey, the community support for identifying programs to enhance recycling in Mesa County, and the multi-agency partnerships that already exist within the county. Additional steps by local organizations, city and county alike, in addition to grant funding, are currently being pursued to increase the amount and type of infrastructure to deal with the issue of debris recovery and recycling.

#### **2. Description of Work Completed**

The project included:

- Debris Management Workshop held on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009;
- Development of an emergency contact database for organizations and point-of-contact for disaster debris recovery and recycling operations;
- Development of an inventory of potential debris types/sources:
  - Mesa County Solid Waste Management Waste Matrix identifies categories/sources of waste, concerns, disposal options, and additional information, standards and requirements;
  - Disaster Debris handling Agencies identifies the current handling organizations and estimated debris by type;
- Development of content for a Draft Debris Recycling and Recovery Annex;
- Development of recommend revision and upgrades to the Emergency Management Website;
- Development of other communications and education strategies as part of the website revision process

### **3. Summary of Findings & Results:**

Findings from the work completed (as described above) identified many areas of concern and future coordination in planning for a debris event in Mesa County:

- Adoption of a Preliminary Damage Assessment tool for debris recycling and recovery in Mesa County was identified as an area of need;
- Development of “Prioritized Target List” for debris removal from travel routes: list of sites/locations that need to be accessible and cleared of debris in the initial stages of emergency response;
- Need to review existing waste management contracts at the city, county level to determine their relevance to a disaster scenario;
- Adoption of a methodology to identify materials that have careful regulatory or compliance related controls. The materials need to be listed in order of their immediate health and safety concerns to ensure that recovery and diversion efforts are within compliance and costs are reimbursable by Federal or State agencies;
- As current landfill capacity will be exceeded in 2018 careful planning for diversion and recycling is necessary to ensure that a disaster generating a large amount of debris doesn’t significantly reduce the overall capacity to any great extent;
- A draft Disaster Debris Response algorithm should be adopted for incidents where processes that NEED to be taken care of to ensure health and safety are initially given priority for action rather than less urgent emergency response actions. (SEE Incident Disaster Debris Response Draft Flow Chart)
- Organizations currently under contract with the county for waste and recycling operations need to be informed of the Public Assistance Contract information requiring a “bidding” process after the first 70 hours of operations.
- A permitting list needs to be kept by the county for any buildings or operations that may need to operate outside the specified permit during an emergency.
- Construction and Demolition Debris recovery and recycling was specified as an area of concern. Specifically proposed:
  - Future work in capturing existing volumes/types as a result of Spring Cleanup;
  - Health and safety issues, personal protective equipment needs identification and forecasting of PPE equipment for incidents;
  - Plan exercise and evaluation in coordination with future Spring Cleanup events;
  - Community collaboration to establish plans for handling C&D material.

### **4. Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks:**

- Ongoing efforts to involve key individuals in finalizing a draft plan need to be made (i.e. County Attorney) and were not possible at this point in the workshop or planning process. An unanticipated outcome of this was that

municipal agencies were able to focus on individual areas of contract-related concerns rather than larger issues of county-state relationships.

- Contract issues will need to be addressed at the agency level and then brought back to the planning group for resolution prior to any emergency.
- Mesa County operates the Solid Waste landfill, but many of the operations and associated services are sub-contracted. As well, municipal organizations create their own complex issues when it comes to public and private services regarding waste management and recycling. This caused a greater concern that a community/county-wide effort is needed to provide coordinated planning for waste management issues regarding disasters with leadership from the county ESF3 lead.
- Due to the fact that the issues of Disaster Debris creates a fractured picture for responders (public/private, city/county, regulated/non-regulated material) the planning effort will need to continue in order for private citizens, businesses, and responders to hold a clear picture of the response from small to large disaster events.

#### 5. **Communication to Colorado Businesses and Communities**

- Primary means for communication of planning will be **web-linked** information. Additionally, the local emergency planning committee will be an additional avenue for stakeholder outreach and information.
- Documents for Public information and communications are being compiled to address disaster debris upon plan approval and will be integrated into county **Joint Information Systems** planning.
- Department Directors of County Administration, Health, Waste Management, Emergency Management, the County Board of Health, and State agencies involved in the grant process (CDPHE, CDEM) will receive a copy of the **final grant report** and attached documentation
  - Copy of the Draft plan
  - Copy of the Disaster Debris Response Flowchart
  - Mesa County Waste Matrix

#### 6. **Recycling Impact:**

- The area of Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris was identified early on for policy and planning emphasis. Continuing coordination with stakeholders around the issue of waste generated by C&D operations within the county will be a top priority.
- Spring Cleanup in the city of Grand Junction has generally been considered to be the “waste surge” event most comparable to disaster debris generated during an incident. Utilizing this event as an exercise to identify strategies to impact recycling annually and debris recovery and recycling operations in an incident is being discussed. Initial discussions have taken place with the city of Grand Junction, County Emergency Management, and the Health Department’s emergency planning, and are expected to continue.

## 7. Financial Summary

1. Staff time- (equivalent of .5 FTE-460 hrs total) Plan Writing, Website Development	\$5520
2. <b>Materials/Supplies/Equipment</b>	\$500
3. <b>Indirect Cost(20%):</b>	\$1480
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$7500</b>

## 8. Continuing Development of Disaster Debris Planning

- The Solid Waste Management Matrix will be reworked to identify a Priority List of Debris by Hazard Type for Responders. This matrix will be crucial in helping to identify priority categories of waste for mitigation during incidents and disposition and diversion of hazardous materials early in the response process.
- An operational debris flowchart that identifies a process by which decision driven processing of disaster debris can take place.
- Information Technology integration into future efforts will focus on a coordinated interactive mapping tool to identify potential debris types/quantities by forecasted location during a disaster debris event. This project will be coordinated with public and private industry.

## 9. Final Conclusion

The Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund Grant Program was of unique benefit to the disaster planning agencies in Mesa County in that it provided for:

- Incentive to coordinate planning for disaster debris management between public and private organizations;
- Focus of existing community information in the area of hazards and the debris they generate to developing concrete planning efforts that are able to continue beyond the scope of the grant;
- Paid staff, for the time period of the grant, to ensure that planning efforts were not prolonged or protracted by the need to multi-task other work products;
- Draft plan development that incorporated the efforts of multiple agencies and numerous county staff;

Beyond the scope of the grant work already completed, this grant funded effort allowed Mesa County Health, Emergency Management, and Solid Waste to identify the most urgent planning areas that could be completed, next steps to be taken, and solutions to obstacles that may have hampered progress in this planning area in the past.