The Labor Day Fires constitute the biggest and most expensive disaster in Oregon history. As of October 12, 2020, over 4,000 residences and 1,400 other structures have been destroyed.

The management of the ash and debris left behind is a 2-step process. First, household hazardous waste (HHW) must be removed. Once complete, the process of removing ash and debris may begin on the property.

**Approximate Timeline for the Work**

- **Right of Entry**: 4 to 6 weeks
- **HHW Cleanup**: 30 to 60 days
- **Ash & Debris Cleanup**: 6 to 18 months

**Household Hazardous Waste**

We recommend that the public not disturb ash or debris until after an assessment by response professionals. Hazards could include: asbestos, toxic chemicals, and electrical or structural dangers.

Before rebuilding or debris removal can take place, property must be cleared of HHW or other hazardous substances. Crews that specialize in identifying and removing hazardous substances will visit properties, determine what HHW materials are present, and remove them for safe disposal.

The approach for this work is state managed, federally supported, and locally operated.

This service is funded by federal and state government and provided free of charge to property owners in Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Marion counties.

**Ash and Debris Removal-FEMA Public Assistance**

- FEMA reimburses state and local governments for the cost of disaster-related debris removal
- FEMA will not reimburse property owners for clean up work

Because of this, we recommend that property owners not complete clean up work on their own. Homeowners should utilize any insurance payments for rebuilding, rather than clean up efforts.
The total cost estimate for hazard trees, ash, and debris is $622M ($291.2M hazard trees, $325.9M ash and debris). A cost share is required, with FEMA covering 75% and a non-federal government (state/local) covering the remaining 25%.

The Debris Management Task Force, consisting of OEM, ODOT, and DEQ, recommend adoption of a State Managed, Locally Coordinated framework for debris management operations. The DMTF further recommends the state take responsibility for the 25% cost share portion of the FEMA funds and not pass this cost onto local governments. The cost share could go to 10% during the course of cleanup.

### Cost Estimate of Ash and Debris Removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Direct Federal Assistance USACE</th>
<th>State Managed, Locally Coordinated</th>
<th>Locally Managed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>State requests USACE to manage all of the FEMA eligible debris cleanup activities.</td>
<td>State manages the contracts and overall cleanup effort with strong coordination with local governments in each impacted area.</td>
<td>County oversees contracts and debris removal operations within their respective jurisdiction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing Factors</strong></td>
<td>USACE can utilize existing contracts to begin work as soon as HHW debris is cleared and FEMA eligibility determined.</td>
<td>State has more control of timing through contracting and starting before all FEMA eligibility decisions.</td>
<td>Each county would need to utilize its own contracting process and assume the risk of FEMA eligibility before starting work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flow</strong></td>
<td>USACE covers the payments and bills the state and/or local government at the conclusion of the cleanup effort.</td>
<td>State funds all costs of cleanup upfront until FEMA reimbursement. Legislative action required for funds and limitation.</td>
<td>County funds all costs of cleanup upfront until FEMA reimbursement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost Estimate</strong></td>
<td>State/Local Cost Share: $123.75M — 140.25M Most expensive estimate</td>
<td>State Cost Share: $78.75—89.25M Assumes State providing the 25% cost share</td>
<td>County Cost Share: $78.75—89.25M Each county responsible for cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contracting Approach</strong></td>
<td>USACE selects one of their pre-qualified contractors. No state control over the pace of recovery. USACE assume no liability for any damages.</td>
<td>State selects contractors with shared Oregon values, while meeting FEMA requirements. State hires monitoring consultant to ensure maximum FEMA reimbursement.</td>
<td>Each county could take varying approaches to debris cleanup, which will result in varying costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Factors</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY** *(positive or negative factor)*

- $ Cost
- Time
- Weather
- Local connection

A fourth option of a state-managed approach was previously included. The DMTF is no longer including this option, because effective cleanup requires coordination and partnership with local government.