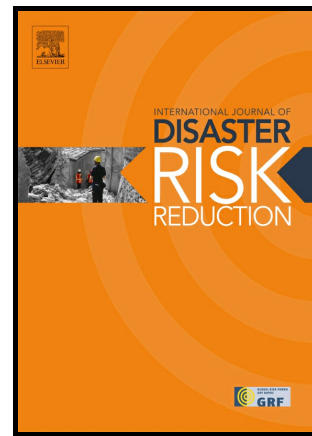


Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/ijdr

PII: S2212-4209(17)30320-5
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2017.10.024>
Reference: IJDRR704

To appear in: *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*

Received date: 11 July 2017
Revised date: 23 October 2017
Accepted date: 27 October 2017

Cite this article as: Julia Crowley and Peter Flachsbart, Local Debris Management Planning and FEMA Policies on Disaster Recovery in the United States, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2017.10.024>

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Local Debris Management Planning and FEMA Policies on Disaster Recovery in the United States

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Abstract

Disaster debris management can be time-consuming and costly. Past research suggests that the presence of pre-disaster debris management plans promotes effective and efficient debris operations, which ultimately leads to a speedier recovery. In spite of the importance of debris management planning, there has been little research on the consistency between local plans and federal policies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed its second Pilot Program in 2013 to provide guidance for planning and managing debris after disasters. This program provides communities with a set of required plan components. Based on a sample of 38 debris management plans, this study analyzes the extent to which debris management plans are in compliance with the guidance put forth by the Pilot Program. The counties in this study received FEMA major disaster declarations between 2011 and 2016. Inferential statistics suggest that the sample is representative of the larger population of counties that had disaster declarations and debris management plans in place before the disaster occurred. After the plans were evaluated, they were ranked and divided into clusters in order to better understand the relationships between federal guidance and local debris management planning. While the majority of plans mentioned most of the components,

¹ This author was with the National Preparedness Training Center in Honolulu, HI when the research was conducted

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