**Unit 3 Homework—Debris Removal Assignment**

**Case Study: Hurricane Sandy in New York City**

**General Purpose:** To encourage and promote understanding of the role of community stakeholders in risk assessment, risk management, and resilience.

**Specific Aims:** To reinforce real-world examples of risk assessment, management, and communication; to continue to build students’ knowledge and exposure to different approaches to risk assessment, management, and communication; to demonstrate the role of stakeholders in risk assessment, management, and communication in preparation for role-playing in the Town Hall Meeting; and to have students practice their critical thinking skills by reviewing and evaluating a task force’s report.

**Assignment Guidelines:**

**Background**

After a major storm, government agencies review the performance of stakeholders in terms of preparedness, initial response, and cleanup. The purpose is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the strategies and to determine if any changes need to be made to any stage of preparedness, response, and resilience. This assignment will prepare you for our class discussion on the role of stakeholders in risk assessment, management, emergency preparedness, and resilience.

**Assignment**

Students must review the “Debris Removal Task Force: Hurricane Sandy” report by NYC OEM Operations Division/Response (April 2014) and answer the questions below.

<https://www.nrt.org/sites/64/files/DRTF_Regional_Response_Team_II_April%2010_2014.pdf>

* First, skim the presentation pages. Identify any words and/or acronyms that you do not recognize. Check the provided glossary of terms for definitions.
* Read through the provided questions. Then read the presentation again, answering the questions as you go.
* Bring your answers to the next class for discussion.

**Questions**

1. In 2007, the Disaster Relief Task Force (DRTF) recognized that “progressively larger, more consequential storms” required the need to develop a “Downed Tree Protocol” (p.3). After Hurricane Irene, it was clear that debris from storm impacts was made up of more than just trees (p. 4). What other materials did the DRTF need to consider for removal?
2. The DRTF created a “beneficial reuse program” for collected debris. List at least five ways collected debris was reused or recycled.
3. Look through the entire presentation. How many government agencies are listed as “core agencies” for debris removal efforts?
4. How many “key partners” are mentioned in the presentation?
5. Look at the picture of storm damage on p. 33 of the presentation and consider the government agencies and key partners involved in the DRTF. Which agencies/partners do you think needed to be involved to clean up the damage pictured?
6. How might the presence of debris in environmentally protected areas (like wetlands) impact the methods of debris removal?

**Glossary for “Debris Removal Task Force: Hurricane Sandy” Report[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**DoD** Department of Defense

**DRTF** Debris Removal Task Force

**DSNY** Department of Sanitation, New York City

**DTTF** Downed Tree Task Force

**e-Goods** Electronic products and appliances (computers, cell phones, etc.)

**HHW** Household hazardous waste

**ICS Area Command** Incident Command System center

**OEM** Office of Emergency Management, New York City

**Parks** Parks Department, New York City

**White Goods** Large electrical goods used domestically (refrigerators and washing machines, typically white in color)

**USACE** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. Glossary is not comprehensive, but includes definitions for necessary concepts. Students are encouraged to search the FEMA Guide for other terms. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)