

Prioritization of Requests for Disaster Response

When competition for UFST resources exists within the Southern Region (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA) the “regional UFST coordinator” will establish priorities in coordination with the requesting State Forester and U&CF Coordinator.

The standard criteria used in establishing priorities include:

1. official request from the community indicating need,
2. request is within the defined scope of UFST,
 - a. stage of the disaster (first 72 hours, response or prolonged response phase, recovery).
2. absence of professional capacity (i.e. staff) to:
 - a. evaluate the risk associated with the disaster,
 - b. respond in a timely manner to meet FEMA requirements.
3. scale of the disaster (related to #1):
 - a. intensity within the community,
 - b. within the region.
4. overall level of risk to:
 - a. human life,
 - b. property and resource values.
5. support of ongoing incidents (UFST) or overall response in the community,
6. community’s U&CF history and status,
7. communities with a pre-disaster MOU with state agency,
 - a. cities with a risk management plan.

Discussion:

1. The event that triggers U&CF Coordinator action and potential UFST response.
2. Debris estimation, risk assessment, or tree planting evaluations. Tree planting evaluation request would be low priority during a response phase of a disaster.
3. Cities with adequate staff for the scale of disaster (#4) would receive lower priority. Level of risk (#5) and incident timing are contributing factors for consideration.
4. Communities with “minor” damage” relative to the overall disaster will receive lower priority. Communities will be asked to prioritize areas within their city.
5. What is the potential risk (e.g. heavy damage where there are lots of people and remaining resources).
6. Will UFST response aid other responders within the community (higher priority), or is continued commitment in another community critical (lower priority).
7. Where does this community appear on the U&CF Coordinator’s radar?
8. Communities that have a risk management MOU with the agency and have already defined the high priority areas of their community.