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The first in a series of webinars developed by the UFST Advisory Committee to provide previously trained UFST members with updates on the UFST program, responses, procedures, and protocol.

Urban Natural Resources Institute (UNRI) is a science-based source for information and answers to questions on urban natural resources stewardship.

Urban Forestry South is the Southern Region's urban & community forestry Technology Transfer Center which supports U&CF programs through state agencies and municipalities.

Slide 2



Urban Forest Strike Teams were implemented in 2007 at the request of state U&CF coordinators (Leslie Moorman, NC; Paul Revell, VA) to provide appropriate tree risk, woody debris, and recovery response by urban forestry professionals following urban natural disasters.

The program has been supported by the Southern Group of State Foresters through the region's Urban & Community Forestry state coordinators and has been implemented in the Northeastern Area by John Parry and Rob Clark (USDA FS).
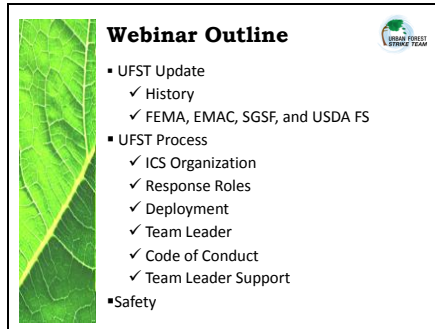
Slide 3



The UFST advisory Committee is sponsoring a series of monthly webinars in 2011.

Most of these presentations are targeted at individuals that have attended one of the 2-3 day UFST workshops held since 2007.

Team Leaders should attend (or view) all/any of them. All webinars will be archived so they can be viewed later if you can't make the scheduled presentation.
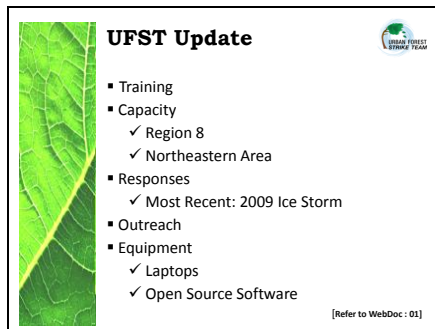
Slide 4

**Webinar Outline**

- UFST Update
  - ✓ History
  - ✓ FEMA, EMAC, SGSF, and USDA FS
- UFST Process
  - ✓ ICS Organization
  - ✓ Response Roles
  - ✓ Deployment
  - ✓ Team Leader
  - ✓ Code of Conduct
  - ✓ Team Leader Support
- Safety

In this presentation we will cover …

❑ an update of UFST
❑ the UFST process (specifically related to Team Leaders)
❑ TL support
❑ UFST safety requirements

Slide 5

**UFST Update**

- Training
- Capacity
  - ✓ Region 8
  - ✓ Northeastern Area
- Responses
  - ✓ Most Recent: 2009 Ice Storm
- Outreach
- Equipment
  - ✓ Laptops
  - ✓ Open Source Software

[Refer to WebDoc : 01]

Referring to WebDoc: 01 (see center of document header)

Training scheduled on 2011 in Tulsa (late June) and in Delaware (September?).
There is a need & opportunity for Team Leader involvement & participation in these training workshops.

Current capacity:
❑ Team Leaders (all Region 8) - 20 +/-
❑ Task Specialists – Region 8 – 65
❑ Task Specialists – NA – 41
❑ State U&CF Coordinators
❑ Municipal/Consulting
❑ Assorted USDA FS

Most Recent Response:
❑ 2009 Northern Arkansas & Western Kentucky

Outreach:
❑ Various presentations
❑ Meetings with EM in Virginia and Alabama

Equipment:
❑ Laptops (2) setup; GPS/Data collectors (6)
❑ Open source software (this will be covered in the next TL webinar)
❑ Software updates maintained by UFS
❑ Data handling…
  - File naming conventions
  - GIS standards
  - Internet storage & transfer

UFST Advisory Committee                                             Page: 2 of 8

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**UFST Update**

- Southern Group of State Foresters
- USDA Forest Service
  - ✓ Region 8
  - ✓ Northeastern Area
- FEMA
  - ✓ National Agreement
- EMAC
  - ✓ Mission Ready Packages

SGSFs reviewed status of UFST last June (Biloxi) and the UFST Advisory Committee will ask U&CF Coordinators to present 2011 recommendations in June at the Jacksonville (FL) meeting.

USDA Forest Service continues to support UFST in Region 8 and the NA.

The NA has some promising FEMA connections that will be nurtured and pursued prior to the June SGSFs meeting.

UFS, working with Alabama EM, is preparing EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact – www.EMACweb.org), has written draft EMAC "Mission Ready Packages" that describe UFST components (8).

ALEM recommends that UFST pursue a national agreement between FEMA and USDA FS so that UFSTs can be deployed through the Forest Service at FEMA's request. Resource descriptions and AD (Administratively Determined) pay scales are being developed.

Slide 7

**Team Leaders**

**UFST Team Leaders:**
- manage the overall response effort (safety, data, and products)
- manage the crews (Task Specialists) to get the work done
- coordinate with the appropriate federal, state & local agencies
- interact with UFST support (e.g. GIS, UFS)

**UFST Reconnaissance:**
- assists the urban forestry staff (state agency or local), state and local EM, and/or state forestry agency in the assessment of extent and severity of urban forest damage for the purpose of determining appropriateness, role, scale, and timing of an effective UFST response

[Refer to WebDoc : 02]

Referring to WebDoc: 02 (see center of document header)

A general description of UFST Team Leader is being developed for EMAC Mission Ready Packages and for FEMA/USDA FS.

Team Leaders are responsible for UFST response, and are also used pre-deployment to assist states in determining the scale and timing of the response (ie. reconnaissance).

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Referring to WebDoc: 04 (see center of document header)

Although not implemented under ICS, ICS is the model used for developing, training, and deploying UFST.

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Referring to WebDoc: 02 (see center of document header)

UFST deployment relies on knowledge that the state forestry agency, and particularly the state U&CF Coordinator, has about communities that may have been affected by a disaster.

Slide 10



Referring to WebDoc: 05 (see center of document header)

The state U&CF Coordinator (and State Forester) makes the initial disaster-wide assessment which has typically been followed by a reconnaissance "team" to:

• maintain appropriate UFST focus and objective
• help determine spatial scope of the response
• estimate personnel and timing of response
• make critical links with communities through the state U&CF Coordinator

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**UFST Process**

- U&CF Coordinator

✓ Prioritizes disaster-wide response
✓ Prioritizes within-city response with local UF or contacts
✓ Creates the list of contacts to assist Team Leader pre-, during, and post-deployment

[Refer to WebDoc : 06 & 07]

Referring to WebDoc: 06 & 07 (see center of document header)

Key elements at this stage of the response to support the Team Leader include:

- prioritization of response (within and across communities)
- developing local contacts

During the response, the TL will work with the state U&CF Coordinator and local contacts to reprioritize as necessary.

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**Disaster Response Timeline**

Natural Disaster Strikes    Federal Disaster Declaration

① ② ③

Response Phase          Recovery Phase

**State Coordinator/State Forester Role**

① Initial disaster assessment
•UFST reconnaissance

② Prioritize disaster area / request UFST assistance

③ Prepare for UFST arrival
•Update community contacts
•Determine communities' needs (FEMA reimbursement or other objectives)
•Arrange for UFST command center
•Develop news releases and public relation information

Referring to WebDoc: 08 & 09 (see center of document header)

Here is a quick review of the disaster response timeline from a FEMA standpoint and the role of the state coordinator/state forester with regards to UFST. The team leader needs to know what the state coordinator has done to prepare for the arrival of UFST.
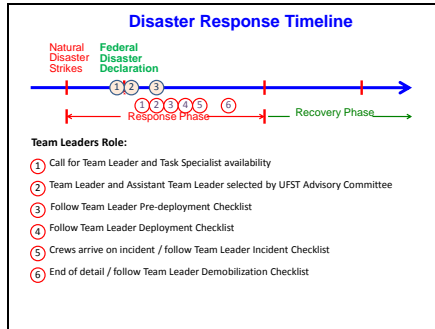
After a natural disaster impacts an area, the impacted state gathers information about the severity of the damage and determines if its resources are sufficient to handle the clean-up. Usually within 72 hours the governor of the state will ask the U.S. president (through FEMA) to declare the area a federal disaster. After that declaration, FEMA initiations assistance programs and begins the response phase. Generally, this phase lasts a couple of months, however, depending on the severity of the event (i.e. Hurricane Katrina), it can extend for quite a few months. After basic infrastructure has been restored, FEMA switches its programs to recovery phase.

State Coordinator Role:
- After disaster, state coordinator assesses communities for severity of damage. They may ask for assistance from UFST to help them determine priorities.
- After a federal disaster declaration, the coordinator identifies impacted communities, prioritizes disaster area, and requests UFST assistance.
- While the UFST team is being assembled, the coordinator prepares for their arrival.

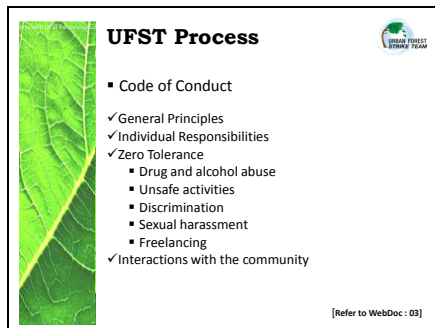WebDoc: 09 is a narrative discussion of this timeline.

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Referring to WebDoc: 08 & 09 (see center of document header)

While the coordinator is preparing for UFST arrival, the UFST team is being assembled (These events for UFST deployment are fluid and may occur anytime after the disaster).

- Urban Forestry South or the UFST Advisory Committee (AC) will determine who is available for deployment via email request.
- The UFST AC selects a team leader (TL) and assistant team leader (ATL) based on experience.
- The TL, ATL, and state coordinator work together to prepare for UFST deployment.
- When TL and ATL arrive on incident, they will meet with the state coordinator and community personnel to assess the prioritized area to ensure prioritization is most efficient use of UFST. Adjustments in priorities may be negotiated at this time. Also, setting the command center and the equipment is important here. Prepare for the arrival of the crews.
- When the crews arrive, initial orientation and refresher training on equipment use will need to be done. This is where the daily routine of morning briefings, data collection, evening debriefings, and data download take place.
- At the end of the deployment, equipment will need to be collected from the crews and a final debriefing needs to be conducted. The TL and ATL will write final reports and present to state coordinator and/or communities.

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Referring to WebDoc: 03 (see center of document header)

The UFST Code of Conduct has changed little since first developed (Katrina pre-UFST response) and is always relevant.

It contains four major components.

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**Team Leader Support**

- **Assistant Team Leader**
- **U&CF Coordinator (community liaison)**
- Municipality
- Other State Agencies
- **GIS Specialist**
- **Urban Forestry South**
- USDA Forest Service
- FEMA Debris Managers
- Contractors

Team Leaders get support from several agencies, groups or individuals…

- The Assistant Team Leader (when deployed) "extends" the reach of the TL (i.e. ICS 'span of control') and provides adiditonal filed contact with crews, community, and state agency.

- U&CF Coordinator is a major source of support

- A municipal forester or arborist, city manager, planner, or other city staff may be able to provide some support.  This occur early in the deployment  when getting started and often is not possible on a day-to-day basis.

- The state or local Emergency Management  may be involved, interested, or helpful.

- The UFST "standard" is to provide GIS support to the teams.

- The USDA Forest Service, through Urban Forestry South, will provide technical support before, during, and after the team's deployment.

- The USDA Forest Service may also be involved with FEMA at the national level.

- In past responses, FEMA debris managers have been engaged in our work for the community.

-  Many communities contract their debris response to an engineering firm; their role is to provide an interface to FEMA for reimbursements.  In these cases, coordination with the engineering contractor is helpful.

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**Safety**

- **Safety Briefings by Team Leader – Daily**
- **Job Hazard Analysis (USDA FS)**
  - ✓ Use for briefings
  - ✓ Add hazards as observed
- **Hardhats**
  - ✓ ANSI Z89.1–2009 Type I, Class E or G
  - ✓ NFPA 1977 (1998 Edition)
- **Vests**
  - ✓ ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 Level 2

[Refer to WebDoc 10]

Referring to WebDoc: 10 (see center of document header)

UFST Safety includes:

❑ Daily safety briefings (or de-briefings)
❑ Use of the JHA (and updating as needed)
❑ Proper equipment

Hardhats that meet the ANSI Z89.1–nnnn Type I, Class E or G are approved for general use. Wildfire hardhats meet the NFPA 1977 and are acceptable.

Safety Vests: ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2, Level 2

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In April, the 2nd UFST webinar for Team Leaders will cover equipment and software currently being used. And, will also discuss handling data that includes proper folder setup and file naming conventions.

This presentation will be archived at www.UNRI.org and available as a PDF at www.UFST.org.