

Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV Historic Properties and Woody Debris Removal

Woody debris removal and root ball removal from historic sites such as cemeteries, battlegrounds, parks, and archaeologically sensitive Native American landscapes may have the potential to adversely affect historic properties. Care should be taken during debris removal operations located particularly in:

- Cemeteries;
- Battlegrounds;
- Historic districts;
- Archaeologically sensitive areas.

FEMA recommends the following best practices are implemented to the extent practicable:

- Utilize methods to avoid or minimize soil disturbance around the stump;
- Void spaces must be backfilled with any original loose from the root ball or clean fill from an approved source;
- If any potential archeological resources are discovered, work must immediately cease and the Applicant or contractor must notify the State and FEMA;
- When using heavy equipment, work from hard, firm and dry surfaces to the fullest extent possible, to avoid sinking into soft soils.

In the event that cultural resources may be impacted by debris removal operations including root ball removal, contact your Florida Division of Emergency Management lead to discuss the scope of work and potential FEMA environmental compliance requirements.