



Northeast Urban Forest Strike Team Workshop

September 15-16, 2009

SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS

31 evaluations received (34 attendees)

RATINGS OF INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS (1=Not at all useful → 5 = extremely useful)

SESSION TITLE	1	2	3	4	5
TUESDAY					
Urban Forestry Strike Team Initiative - <i>Revelle, Stone</i>	0	0	2	13	15
Working with EMS, ICS and NIMS - <i>Clark, Zingarelli</i>	0	0	9	9	9
FEMA 325 Removal + Pruning Standards- <i>Chamberland</i>	1	1	3	14	12
Storm Damage Assessment Protocol (SDAP) - <i>Bloniarz</i>	0	2	2	15	12
Field Exercise: SDAP	0	0	2	14	15
SDAP Data Entry, Generating Reports - <i>Bloniarz</i>	0	0	6	9	13
Forest Service Risk Tree Evaluation Standards - <i>Poole</i>	0	1	4	16	9
Recreational Exercise GPS – Geo-Caching - <i>Bloniarz</i>	0	0	4	10	9
WEDNESDAY					
Strike Team Process: How to Evaluate Storm Damage to Trees - <i>Parry</i>	0	0	5	11	15
Using GPS to Collect Data - <i>Luther</i>	0	0	2	9	20
Field Exercise: Strike Team Evaluation	0	0	3	8	20
Strike Team Process Data Management, Generating and Using Reports – <i>Parry, Luther</i>	0	0	5	14	11
Volunteering and Deploying with a Strike Team Crew – <i>Stone, Revell</i>	0	0	1	11	16

1. How would you describe your level of knowledge in storm damage assessment before participating in the training?

Rudimentary	1	2	3	4	5	Expansive
# answers	1	2	8	13	7	= 31 total

2. As a result of participating in the training, how would you describe your level of knowledge now about storm damage assessment?

Not much change	1	2	3	4	5	Greatly expanded
# answers	0	2	1	10	18	= 31 total



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3. As a result of attending this training, how prepared do you feel to assist as a member of the strike team, should a storm event occur in the next 6 months?

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unprepared						Well prepared
# answers	0	0	1	8	22	= 31 total

4. After this training, how confident do you feel that you will be able to serve on a strike team?

	1	2	3	4	5	
<i>In-state</i> Doubtful						Very confident
# answers	0	0	1	6	24	= 31 total

	1	2	3	4	5	
<i>In another state</i> Doubtful						Very confident
# answers	0	0	3	12	15	= 30 total

6. Reflecting on the logistics of the training, please rate your opinion of the following:

	Disliked					Liked				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Doyle Center facilities	0	0	0	4	27					
Field sites	0	0	4	8	19					
Time of year for training	0	0	0	7	24					

7. Did you complete the online ICS training? Yes = 19 No = 2 No answer = 10

"No answer" was likely due to placement of question at top of 2nd page; respondents probably did not see it and went right to the table of sessions ratings.

10. Please rate your overall experience at this training (circle one)

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all worthwhile						Extremely worthwhile
# answers	0	0	0	9	22	= 31 total

***Please see Excel spreadsheet for all written comments....



Northeast Urban Forest Strike Team Workshop EVALUATION RESULTS - COMMENTS

1. How would you describe your level of knowledge in storm damage assessment BEFORE participating in the training?

Private/commercial hurricane assessment.
I took the Strike Team class before.
As I keep coming to training, it keeps getting better.
Mainly did hazard tree surveys.
My level of knowledge prior was solely based on what I'd learned about tree structure and pathology. I had no formal training. I did have a lot of training evaluating the timber value of standing trees (which is often related) but nothing specific to hazard assessment.
Most work was in utility area during a storm doing the work very qualified but assessing was done by utility.
Have done hazard tree evaluation for cities and institutions.
Katrina/ALB/98 ice storm work.
I am well versed in hazard tree eval.

2. As a result of participating in the training, how would you describe your level of knowledge NOW about storm damage assessment?

Good GIS session.
Much more efficient methods learned.
Took a longer look at the whole tree - able to get better with GPS.
I learned about many specific signs indicating differing levels of risk. The only way I could have learned more is if we visited the site of recent storm damaged trees.
I understand FEMA standards, have a better understanding of GPS use.
This helped in the formal FEMA type eval.

5. What was the most useful thing you learned over the past two days?

Assessment criteria is very thorough, easy to implement and very much a great balance between expedience and doing what is best for the trees.
How to use the GPS and enter tree risk info.
How arborists and forresters (*sic*) evaluate tree damage.
Understanding the process of how and why things are done in the way they are during an event. How FEMA regulates the process and also how to prepare for my town through doing a ROW tree count. Very useful and good idea.
Re...(*can't decipher the word*) the software.
Learned the need for team work + to view the whole tree.
The need for a tree-oriented strike team is needed. Better knowledge of the FEMA system.
(In regards to the strike team) FEMA 325 standards and clarification on standards from FEMA employees in the field. (To myself) FS risk tree evaluation standards and how to apply in the field was very informative and will be useful to me on a regular basis.
FEMA requirements for debris remediation.
Different state, federal policies.
Having FEMA personnel here to understand their perspective & direction was very helpful.
The processes needed for FEMA.
Identifying damaged trees. - Diseased.
How to use GPS.
The contact information will prove invaluable, and the instruction re tree identification and applicable diseases will prove helpful in the future.
GPS hands-on use. Understand FEMA regulations & standards.
It was very interesting to hear and be able to ask specific questions from arborists.
1) FEMA protocol 2) use of handheld device

Insight into FEMA and other agency protocols.
Upgrades to iTree.
Using the GPS + learning more about FEMA's rules and processes.
The FEMA system of dealing with damage.
The process of data gathering. Also, the use of hand-held units instead of paper.
Role of FEMA and estimating debris. Online tests were very informative as well.
The data entry portion of the evaluation process.
6. Comments on the logistics of the training:
A lot in short time but great people and well advised.
Easy to get to and very nice facility.
<i>Comment re "3" score on field sites:</i> Except that they were close which was good. Thought that other sites could have been chosen which had existing storm damage as 3 neighboring towns have still not been cleaned up from ice storm and then we could have been discussing actual trees.
Great location and great time of year.
FEMA should have had more of an active role in this rather than interjecting here & there.
Great setting, the speakers & the content was very well presented.
7. If you completed the online ICS training, did you find it helpful in preparation for this workshop?
Yes, understanding the process and the chain and how it works.
Yes.
Yes.
Not necessarily too helpful but it's obvious that training will be very important if and when we're dispatched.
Yes.
Yes.
Yes.
Agony!
Not really.
Nope.
Yes - very much so.
Yes.
9. Comments on particular sessions:
The hands on Risk Team Strategy protocol was very information - great practice tool!
The sessions I rate as 3's were done very well just not as pertinent. The fives were really really well done. Everything else was excellent.
Very helpful.
GIS very informative.
The information provided by Mr. Poole, the field exercises and the familiarization with tools and equipment was very helpful and useful.
iTree not user friendly and no GPS component.
*Re SDAP data entry: I have never been able to use this software successfully.
**Re Recreational GPS Exercise: would have been good to learn how to program/setup unit.
Regarding #3 relating to 325 manual, found it was given with a degree of misinfo.
Great amount of field work! & hands on.
Dave Stone was a patient, wonderful leader & teacher!
10. Comments regarding overall experience at this training:
Good reinforcement of my training.
Any training and education is so beneficial to have to grow and expand in the industry. To be a more valuable asset to the industry.
I now feel very confident I can go out on assignment and be very effective. I'm very comfortable with everything.
Excellent program overall. Good SDAP refresher, FEMA 325 standards very informative.

As the FEMA Task Force Leader I can look forward toward teaming up with the Strike Force Team in a catastrophic event.
Was glad to meet and hear from such a wide, knowledgeable range of people and be (hopefully) able to communicate that we are all really on the same page & are both out there to help.
I learned quite a bit about policy & procedure, which was very useful.
11. What information do you still need?
More GIS training always helpful.
More concrete examples for damage evaluations - perhaps even shadowing an experienced team on real trees.
Any.
How are contractors compensated?
Mostly, I need to get certified.
I would be interested in Strike Team Leader training. - Fred B.
FEMA contacts.
Further training and actual response.
More GIS/GPS training.
More debris measuring experience and exercises.
I feel pretty confident (more GPS use).
Experience.
Contact info of all attendees.
More info on FEMA regs.
12. Do you have any general comments or suggestions for the Strike Team process?
More continuity with FEMA & other agencies to expedite information to those affected by the disaster.
I am very grateful to have been able to be a part of this training session. Thank you very much.
Let's go!
Excellent seminar.
Just to have follow-ups, maybe if there are storms in the near future (that don't necessitate UFST deployment), we could all meet and practice anyway.
Practice makes perfect.
I have been looking for this training since Katrina. Good work. Thanks Karen.
Nice job! Look forward to help!
I think this is a worthwhile course. Hope you keep it up!
FEMA should have done the 325 Guide. Tom couldn't answer some questions and kept repeating that he was just repeating the guide. We could've read & interpreted the guide on our own. Not helpful at all.
Field work was great as well as hands-on training with I-Tree and Trimble units. Thanks!
Great training, I look forward to utilizing the training.
THE END OF THE EVALUATION