

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Historic Properties and Woody Debris and Root Ball
Removal Environmental Compliance Criteria**

Woody debris removal and root ball removal from historic sites such as cemeteries, battlegrounds, parks, and archaeologically sensitive 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 Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) requests for applicants to provide a list of GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude in decimal degrees) of all root balls removed during the course of debris removal operations. This information is requested in order to review the location of the removed root balls against the locations of known archaeological resources.

FEMA recommends the following best practices are implemented to the extent practicable when completing root ball removal:

- Utilize methods to avoid or minimize soil disturbance around the stump;
- Void spaces must be backfilled with any original loose soil from the root ball or clean fill from an approved source;
- If any potential archeological resources or 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 cultural resources may be impacted by debris removal operations (including root ball removal), contact your California Governor's Office of Emergency Services lead to discuss the scope of work and potential FEMA environmental compliance requirements.