

# Claims Office Compensates Debris Removal on Affected Private Properties

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Individuals and businesses affected by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, subsequent flooding, mudslides and other cascading effects can be compensated for removing debris from their properties in Mora and San Miguel counties. The debris may include fallen trees and limbs, as well as ash, sand, silt, rocks, and boulders.

## Background

The costs to clear debris may be covered under the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. In the past, compensation for debris removal under the Stafford Act was limited to public entities except when debris on private properties created an impediment or hazard to a public asset, such as a road or waterway. The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act allows private landowners to seek compensation for labor, disposal fees and other costs incurred from clearing out debris caused by the fire and subsequent flooding.

To be compensated for debris removal, property owners must file a Notice of Loss (NOL) by March 14, 2025, with the FEMA Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office.

Claimants may hire a contractor or remove the debris themselves. Documentation is required that illustrates ownership of or responsibility for the property.

**NOTE:** Unless included with other compensation, debris removal would generally be compensated based on actual costs incurred.

The Claims Office monitors for duplication of funding with Public Assistance Private Property Debris Removal and previously compensated claims for Reforestation and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans;



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specifically, plans that include debris removal under “woody residue treatment” or “obstruction removal and debris removal” included in total loss compensation. The Claims Office might elect to conduct a site inspection to verify the scope of the work.

Recommended documentation includes:

Type	Documents and Information
For all claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Photos that show property damage and debris generated by Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire or subsequent flooding</li> <li>■ Photos of debris loads</li> <li>■ Proof of ownership of or financial responsibility for property where debris is removed that may include the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mortgage documents</li> <li>■ Copy of deed</li> <li>■ Tax records with physical address</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ If renting property, a copy of lease defining whether owner or renter is responsible for debris removal</li> <li>■ Insurance settlement or denial (If applicable)</li> </ul>
Owner doing work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Estimate of hours spent removing and disposing of debris</li> <li>■ Mileage logged for hauling debris to disposal site Receipts showing disposal fees - Claims Office will use a standard rate calculator to determine compensation for labor: standard compensation for labor is \$20.14 per hour in San Miguel County and \$18.97 per hour in Mora County.</li> </ul>
Contracted work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Receipts, invoices or contractor's cost estimates to remove debris</li> <li>■ Credit card or bank statement showing payments to cover costs insurance policy rider or estimate (if applicable)</li> </ul>

## Additional Information



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Anyone impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and subsequent flooding is encouraged to start a claim with the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office as soon as possible. The deadline to submit an NOL and begin your claim is March 14, 2025.

This Debris Removal Fact Sheet is specific to individual and business debris removal claims. A separate debris Removal Fact Sheet will be released for government and acequia debris removal claims.

The State of New Mexico offers a disaster case management program that provides a point of contact to assist with recovery. State disaster case managers can assist people in collecting the required documents for a claim and can connect them with licensed New Mexico contractors. For New Mexico disaster case management support, call 505-670-4662.

For information and updates regarding the Claims Office, please visit the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office website at [fema.gov/hermits-peak](https://fema.gov/hermits-peak). For information in Spanish, visit [fema.gov/es/hermits-peak](https://fema.gov/es/hermits-peak). You can also follow our Facebook page and turn notifications on to stay up to date about the claims process, upcoming deadlines and other program announcements at [facebook.com/HermitsPeakCalfCanyonClaimsOffice](https://facebook.com/HermitsPeakCalfCanyonClaimsOffice).

