

**FOREST LANDOWNER POST DISASTER  
TIMBER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY  
PRE-SALVAGE CHECKLIST**

THIS CHECKLIST WILL HELP TO INFORM LANDOWNERS AS TO THE BASIC INFORMATION NEEDED TO EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY PREPARE BEFORE EXECUTING TIMBER SALVAGE OPERATIONS

**BEFORE BEGINNING SALVAGE OPERATIONS**

***(THINGS TO DO & TO KNOW)***

- Be realistic.** (Salvage, attracting a logger/buyer, will often depend on size of the sale & quality of the timber)
- Prepare a written plan.** (Base it on an assessment of the damage & goals or priorities of the salvage operation including: Salvage of the most valuable products first, salvage of those products that will lose value quickly, salvage of timber that is easily cut and, specific notation of timber stands not requiring any salvage activity.)
- Act quickly, but don't rush.** (This in part relates to the type of forest products to be salvaged.)
- Gather required documentation and authorizations before you act.** (Inform all those with an interest in the timber including any government agency whose conservation programs you are under contract with.)
- Prepare a written contract.** ( Offers protection for both parties and it should include at the very least: Who is buying and who is selling. What is to be done and who is to do it. Who is paying who for what? And, how the tract will be left when the operation is complete.)
- Know your timber "basis" before you salvage.** (Knowing & understanding "basis" is vital information for casualty loss tax purposes. Timber basis needs to be determined before harvesting timber)
- Obtain professional help in a timely manor if needed** (If you will be using a forester or other professional to help with the sale or with tax matters contact them well in advance of the proposed sale.)
- Find and flag property lines, corners and all potential hazards & potential problem areas.** (Power pole guy wires, old home sites and fences can become completely obscured by debris and could present delay issues.)
- Do any legwork needed to limit potential issues.** (Talk with adjoining landowners about boundary & access issues, county officials about road & bridge issues and utilities about potential issues like low power lines.)
- Improve access where possible.** (Widening gateways, maintaining roads, removing roadside obstacles and other actions that improve access will reduce complications and increase salvage attraction.)
- Salvage co-ops possibilities.** (Combining acreages with adjacent or close neighbors may increase the attractiveness of salvage operations to a logging contractor. Seek professional help before entering into a co-op to help reduce the likelihood of conflict.)
- Protect yourself & your asset.** (Restrict all fire and place fire lanes where possible to limit wildfire potential. Limit access to the property to essential individuals only and patrol the property regularly.)
- Require insurance?** (Do not use a logger who does not carry at least general liability & workers compensation insurance. Do not allow salvage to begin until you obtain "proof of insurance" from your logging contractor.)
- References?** (In you don't know someone who approaches you about harvesting your timber get references & don't contract with anyone you don't know before checking references.)
- Be patient?** (Don't stop looking for someone to salvage your timber. Additional sources for contract logger information is available online and from your state forestry commission & forestry association.)