

**FOREST LANDOWNER POST DISASTER
TIMBER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS TIMBER DAMAGE THIS CHECK LIST CAN HELP PREPARE & INFORMED FOREST LANDOWNERS AS TO TOOLS AND BASIC KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO SAFELY AND OBJECTIVELY ASSESS TIMBER RESPONSE OPTIONS.

ASSESSMENT NEEDS: PREPARATIONS & TOOLS

- Make a written plan (*Know your assessment objectives & goals beforehand & what questions you need to answer.*)
- Carry a note book (*Record your observations*)
- Obtain some basic assessment / salvage decision making knowledge (*Basics of what you are looking for.....see below*)
- Wear appropriate clothing (*Hard hat, good boots, long pants & sleeves, gloves.....protect yourself!*)
- Bring an appropriate awareness into the disaster woods (*Remember where you are and what you are doing. Look up as well as around and watch your step. Hurricane woods hold widow-maker trees & snags as well as snakes and fire ants.*)

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO SALVAGE DECISIONS:

- Question to ask # 1: Is there enough undamaged timber left to manage?see below.
- Question to ask # 2: Is there enough timber damaged to justify a salvage operation?
- Question to ask # 3: Can the salvage operation be postponed until markets improve?
- Question to ask # 4: What is the “basis” of the timber?
- Question to ask # 5: Is a professional foresters help needed?
- Question to ask # 6: Is the damaged timber stand located near a stand requiring thinning or harvest in the near future.

SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT OBSERVATIONS RELATIVE TO SALVAGE DECISIONS:

TREES WITH EXCESSIVE DAMAGE (SALVAGE THE ONLY OPTION)

- Uprooted pine trees
- Broken/snapped stems
- Pine stem lean greater than 45 degrees
- Pine stems heavily debarked
- 3 or fewer limbs remaining with bark and needles

TREES WITH DAMAGE (RECOVERABLE FOR FUTURE CROP)

- Pine stem lean less than 45 degrees
- Pine stems with slight debarking
- 4 or more limbs remaining with bark and needles
- Hardwoods with roots attached to soil