



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps reaching milestones with Hurricane Rita missions

Debris removal 92% complete: 79% of stumps removed from the devastated area

BEAUMONT, TEXAS – With the recent completion of debris removal in Chambers County, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, is making headway with its FEMA assigned mission for debris removal. The temporary housing mission (travel trailers) is also progressing.

"We've reached a significant milestone with the removal of 4.6 million cubic yards and 16,600 stumps; so we are 92% complete with debris and 79% with stumps. Nevertheless, we still have some work to do here and we will continue the mission until it's completely done," said Col. Steve Haustein, District Commander of Recovery Field Office for the US Army Corps of Engineers. At this time, Corps contractors are working to complete removing debris, including stumps in the following counties: Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, Newton, Jasper, and Sabine. The Corps estimates a total of 5 million cubic yards and 21,000 stumps to be removed from the devastated area.

The Corps of Engineers would like to remind everyone that it's important to separate the debris and remove household items and other large items; along with separating the storm-related debris from their every day trash. In addition, "debris operations are inherently dangerous," said Col. Haustein. "I ask local citizens to be extremely cautious and remain patient whenever they encounter debris trucks in neighborhoods and roads."

On the temporary housing mission, of the 3,428 families that have been approved for temporary housing, 3,239 travel trailers have been placed with families.