



## CHAPTER 6 SUMMARY

### 6.1 Summary Statement

If a catastrophic storm, such as the 100 year return period probabilistic hurricane-wind and flood event identified in Chapter 2 were to strike Suffolk County, it is estimated that approximately 1,700,000 tons of debris would be generated and spread across the entire county as a result. This far exceeds the average annual amount of solid waste processed in Suffolk County during the year. The debris would block roadways making transportation and access to areas very difficult if not impossible for all residents. Public safety and protection of lives and property would be compromised until the massive quantities of debris could be cleared and removed.

Recovery from recent storms, such as Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy, were effectively carried out because of County-wide cooperation, multi-jurisdictional planning efforts and effective debris removal and disposal contracts. The county-wide experience and expertise gained through these recent events, have directly led to the development of this Plan which includes the pre-positioning of contracts to streamline the contracting process. The required documentation and operating procedures utilized during these storm events have been incorporated into this Plan to ensure that past successes will continue for debris removal and disposal activities, contracting efforts, and processing of federal reimbursement claims. The County is now better positioned to effectively respond to such a storm event because of the documents in place – this Plan, the Concept of Operations Plan, individual jurisdictional annexes, and pre-positioned contracts for both debris removal and management, along with an understanding of the debris monitoring and documentation requirements mandated by state and federal agencies..

Suffolk County and its ten Town planning partners are committed to address public safety and protection issues that are common to all areas and locales of the County. This is accomplished through cooperative planning, training, information sharing, guideline and procedural development/reviews, after action reports, federal and state requirements, and a self-awareness of potential areas in need of improvement. These actions are all dedicated to the protection and safety of our residents with specific focus on preparation and being able to respond to disasters and natural hazard events. The list below identifies areas that need to be considered for a stronger operational approach:

- The County DOES NOT have enough processing and/or final disposal capacity in-state to manage debris generated from a catastrophic disaster event. Processing capacity includes the existing solid waste infrastructure and debris management sites that are established as a result of a natural disaster. While there are opportunities to increase processing capacity at existing infrastructure sites, the volume of debris may be such that the existing infrastructure would be quickly overwhelmed, therefore necessitating the need for both additional Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction (TDSR) and Vegetative Debris sites. These may also serve as local volume reduction plants to facilitate quick and more efficient transport of waste for out of state disposal. With the anticipated volume of construction and demolition debris, out of state disposal is the only option. Various modes of transport other than trucking must be considered such as rail, barge, and container freight.
- The number and location of TDSR and Vegetative debris sites is critical in any planning for debris management. Currently, each town has identified a limited number of town-owned sites for use. However, these sites may not have the capacity that would be needed to manage debris generated for a catastrophic hurricane or other disaster event. It is the municipalities'



responsibility to ensure that the individual TDSR sites have obtained the necessary permit(s)/authorization(s).

- In general, abandoned boats and mass vessel displacement is problematic during a large storm event. The implementation of a web-based, publically available, database providing information helpful in determining the ownership of a collected boat would be beneficial. Such database should include, at a minimum, the following information for each boat collected: the body of water from which the vessel was collected, the vessel registration and/or hull identification number, the vessel name (if any), identifying colors, the make and model of the vessel, and aggregation site location. The database should be constructed so as to allow the owner to correspond with NYS DEC or other appropriate agencies confidentially, to expedite the reunion of vessel owners with their vessels.
- Enhanced coordination and planning with the utility companies will improve response time to begin collection and removal of waste in the right of way thereby getting this waste to a processing facility quicker for disposal and/or recycling.
- Continued and enhanced communication, coordination, and planning with municipalities with regard to managing disaster debris. Provide technical assistance with regard to the proper siting and authorization of TDSR's.