

Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV Powerline Quick Guide

Please review the following guidelines for reimbursement of electrical system repair costs you may incur as a result of a disaster. Repairs to electrical systems are subject to review under the federal and state laws including the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Proper documentation of adherence to federal law is required for FEMA reimbursement.

1. The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976

TSCA addresses the production, importation, use and disposal of specific chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a chemical commonly used in electrical transformers. If transformers containing PCBs are being replaced the following actions are required:

- For each replaced transformer it must be determined if the transformer contained PCB fluid (either provide documentation they did not contain PCBs or copies of the test results).
- Documentation that the final disposition of the transformers is at a location permitted to handle transformers containing PCBs.
- If a transformer is spilled, documentation of the spill must be submitted and should include the reported quantity of fluid spilled, the material, the location, and the report to the EPA or State DHEC if applicable. If a transformer did not spill, specifically note this information.

2. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976

RCRA addresses disposal or recycling of damaged power poles (chemically treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol or copper, chromium & arsenic (CCA)).

- Pole disposal: State landfill regulations require that they be disposed only in a Class 3 (Subtitle D style) landfill.
- Poles taken to a permitted landfill or back to the Co-Op yard/storage facility will require the name of the facility and the GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude).

3. Other documentation requirements

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): Projects involving realignment and excavation of undisturbed ground require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Tribal Governments by FEMA **Prior** to work commencing.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA): Projects involving realignment, tree removal or brush clearing operations may require consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for threatened and endangered species and their habitats.