



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 28, 2005

S. 939

Debris Removal Act of 2005

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on September 22, 2005

Under current law, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimburses state and local governments, and owners or operators of nonprofit organizations for costs associated with removing debris that results from a major disaster. S. 939 would require FEMA to pay half of the federal government's share of such costs within 60 days of an applicant's request for reimbursement. S. 939 also authorizes FEMA to pay costs associated with removing debris from emergency access roads and private property.

Under current law, FEMA has broad authority to remove debris from both public and private property. Consequently, CBO estimates that implementing S. 939 would not have a significant effect on the budget though it could affect the timing of payments. CBO also estimates that enacting S. 939 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 939 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Rachel Milberg. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.