

Disaster Debris Management Guidelines for Residents

This fact sheet is to assist the public in making informed decisions about managing storm debris. If you have a significant amount of debris, check with your local officials to see if they have an approved community staging area available for your use. Otherwise, you should use the disposal options identified for each of the following debris categories.

Rock, Brick, Concrete and Asphalt

- Not considered solid waste and may be left in place or buried.

Yard Brush (including trees, limbs, and other vegetative debris)

- Check with your local officials to see if a community site is available to take your vegetative debris for disposal.
- May be burned on the property where generated as long as the burning is done in compliance with burning guidelines listed on the following page.

Household Waste (including bedding and clothing)

- Your usual household waste disposal method.

Furniture and Carpet

- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station.
- Do not burn or bury.

Construction Demolition Waste (shingles, siding, sheetrock, treated lumber, PVC pipe, wiring, etc.)

- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station.
- Do not burn or bury.

Metal Appliances, Cars and Other Bulky Metal Items

- Try to recycle or take to a salvage yard.
- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station.

Computers, TV's and Other Electronics

- Try to recycle components.
- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station.

Chemicals (explosives, fuel containers, pressurized gas cylinders, chlorine, batteries, paint, etc.)

- Check with local officials to determine if a local household hazardous waste collection center is available.



Debris Management Guidelines for Residents

- Check with your local landfill, transfer station or trash pick-up service provider to see what they will accept.
- You may call DEQ at 1-800-522-0206 for assistance in determining the proper method of disposal.
- Do not burn or bury.

Open Burning Guidelines for Disaster Debris Management

Burning any combustible material results in emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and air toxics. Therefore, the use of open burning as a disposal method should be minimized. Open burning of tires is not allowed under any circumstances.

The following requirements must be met when conducting open burning:

- The open burning cannot create a public nuisance.
- The open burning must be controlled so that a visibility hazard is not created on any roadway, rail track or air field as a result of the air contaminants being emitted.
- The open burning must be conducted so that the contaminants do not adversely affect the ambient air quality of a city or town.
- The initial burning must begin at least three hours after sunrise and no less than three hours before sunset. Also, fuel shall not be intentionally added to the fire at times outside this time period.
- The open burning must not be prohibited by local ordinances or a burn ban.

Burning in accordance with these guidelines does not remove responsibility for damage or injury caused by the burn.

Removal of Storm Debris from Private Property

Removal of storm debris from private property is primarily the responsibility of the individual property owner, aided by homeowner's insurance settlements or volunteer organizations.

Homeowner's Insurance Coverage for Debris Removal

Homeowner's insurance policies generally contain a provision for the pickup of debris resulting from damages to a property covered by the policy. That usually includes structures, fences, playground equipment, etc., although vegetative debris may not be covered. The first step a homeowner should take is to contact his/her insurance agent to determine the extent of coverage.

In declared disasters, FEMA provides funding to local governments (city or county) to cover the cost of debris removal from public property. This usually requires that homeowners move their debris to the public right-of-way. For homeowners who are physically unable, volunteer groups are usually available to provide assistance. Assistance may be available from the Small Business Administration for homeowners without insurance. FEMA should be contacted to see if this assistance is available.

In rare instances where debris on private property poses health and safety concerns, FEMA may fund removal of debris from private property. Be aware that only FEMA makes eligibility determinations regarding removal of debris from private property. FEMA's representative on the ground will make this determination after consideration of all issues.

In any disaster, your local DEQ representative will be able to provide information on debris disposal options. DEQ representatives can be contacted at 800-522-0206.

