

Debris Management Guidelines for Residents

This fact sheet is intended 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 utilize the specific 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.

Tree Limbs

- Check with your local officials to see if a chipper is available.
- 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.
- If you are not able to use a chipper for your tree limbs, you may burn limbs on the property where the debris was generated. You MUST follow the burning guidelines 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.



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

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

The following guidelines should be followed in order to minimize the threat of harm to public health and the environment:

- The site of the open burning should be located as far as possible from area residences. A minimum of one-half mile is strongly recommended.
- The site should be inspected to ensure that there are no petroleum pipelines on or near the burn site to avoid explosion hazards.
- Items such as asbestos, oils, PVC pipe, fertilizer, carpet, upholstered furniture, treated lumber, rubber, tires, etc., cannot be burned.
- The amount of dirt and other non-combustible materials mingled with the debris to be burned should be minimized to achieve the most efficient burn.
- Someone with fire fighting equipment should be at the site at all times.

For more information on debris management, please contact DEQ at 1-800-522-0206.

