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News Release

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DEQ Makes Recommendations Regarding Storm Cleanup

Following the recent storms that have impacted Oklahoma, many residents may be trying to determine how to manage debris, including proper disposal of shingles. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has recommendations for both.

Debris Management

Homeowner insurance policies generally contain a provision for the pick-up of debris resulting from damages to a property covered by the policy, which typically 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 agent to determine the extent of coverage.**

State law generally does not allow the burning of storm debris, including treated lumber, shingles, fences, furniture, household items, appliances, and carpet. City and county officials may have plans in place to pick up storm debris in some areas.

Please note that in the communities in which curb/roadside pick-up is offered, debris should be placed at the roadside. By law, cleanup crews hired by the city/county cannot enter private property to remove the material. Additionally, for those individuals who want to dispose of their own storm debris, it must be taken to a permitted landfill or transfer station.

DEQ has a list of options for debris disposal for city/county officials. DEQ recommends the following:

- Chipping or cutting tree limbs for reuse as mulch or firewood
- Disposal at a permitted landfill
- Disposal at a DEQ registered emergency disposal location that is compliant with state and federal environmental, historical and archeological laws

New Roof

When a roof is replaced, old shingles must be properly disposed of at an approved landfill or recycler and not illegally dumped. Illegal dumping of shingles is detrimental to Oklahoma's natural beauty. Shingles may be subject to wildfires or illegal burning, releasing toxins into the air, land and water.

Roofing contractors should know where permitted landfills or recyclers are located. DEQ strongly recommends that residents talk to the roofer to discuss shingle disposal. Home insurance policies provide for proper shingle disposal. Residents should contact their agent for details.

For details on debris management or proper shingle disposal, visit www.deq.state.ok.us/tornado or contact a local office. Find your local office at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/eclsnew/localOffices.htm>.

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