Demolition Debris
Management of Debris Resulting from Natural Disasters or Planned Demolition Activities

PUB-WA 601
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Each year, severe storms destroy homes, barns and other buildings across Wisconsin. In a crisis, emergency management of debris places yet another burden on property owners and emergency managers. Typically, a great deal of demolition debris needs to be managed in a short period of time.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is concerned with public health, safety, and environmental impacts when demolition debris is mismanaged. The Solid Waste Program offers assistance to communities in managing storm-generated debris, and to individuals interested in razing a single structure.

Typical types of waste generated from both natural disasters and planned demolition activities, along with proper disposal methods, are listed below.

CLEAN SOIL, BRICK, BUILDING STONE, CONCRETE, BROKEN ASPHALT PAVEMENT, WOOD WASTE FROM DOWNE trees, AND UNPAINTED OR UNTREATED WOOD

These items may be disposed of without Department approval as long as the site selected does not impact surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and critical habitat areas. Contact waste staff for assistance in obtaining approval by using the list of contacts on the reverse side. Staff can also assist communities with questions regarding proper management and disposal of contaminated soil.

OPEN BURNING

Open burning of trees, wood, brush, and other clean wood waste is an option, but requires prior DNR approval or concurrence; however, this may not be the best option. Open burning results in the release of contaminants to the air, water and land, and may have an adverse impact on human health and the environment. Also, a fire spreading out of control is always a serious concern and stretches needed emergency personnel even thinner. A wild fire resulting from open burning activities could cost you money, if the local fire department is called out to suppress the fire. Chipping, composting, and using clean wood waste for firewood should be the options considered first!

There is no substitute for careful planning before an emergency occurs. Emergency planning should include a current list of DNR contacts that can assist communities in an emergency. These plans may also identify the location and transportation routes to licensed disposal facilities and household hazardous waste collection facilities. Similarly, communities should identify areas where clean wood wastes, metals and clean concrete, block, brick, etc. may be segregated for proper management once the emergency has subsided. Communities may consider pursuing the development of an approved small demolition landfill.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE FORM OF PAINTS, SOLVENTS, FUELS AND PESTICIDES

Many municipalities have collection programs capable of handling household hazardous wastes. If your community does not have a household hazardous waste program, arrangements can be made with an outside contractor to establish a household hazardous waste disposal drop-off and collection service. You should always contact your local DNR Waste Staff for details and assistance in obtaining approval by using the list of contacts on the reverse side. Staff can also assist communities with questions regarding proper management and disposal of contaminated soil.

GLASS, ASPHALT AND FIBERGLASS ROOFING, CARPETING AND PAD, INSULATION, PVC PIPING, SIDING, DRYWALL, PLASTER AND PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

Items that cannot be recycled or reused require disposal in a local licensed landfill, or an approved one-time disposal or construction and demolition landfill site.

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS - SIDING, FLOORING, ROOFING AND INSULATION

Asbestos containing items normally require special handling by licensed personnel and proper disposal. You should always contact your local Air Management Specialist for details on proper identification and handling of materials containing asbestos. Please see the statewide contact list on the reverse side for this assistance.
DNR Air and Waste Management Program Contacts

NORTHEAST REGION (NE) includes the following counties:
Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago
Waste Management Contact: Jim Zellmer (920) 662-5431
Air Management Contacts: Rick Wulk (920) 662-5181 or Imelda Hofmeister (920) 424-7884
or ask for the Waste or Air Management contact at (920) 662-5100

NORTHERN REGION (NO) includes the following counties:
Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn
Waste Management Contacts: Jill Schoen (715) 839-2788 or Jim Zellmer (920) 662-5431
Air Management Contact: Neal Baudhuin (715) 365-8958
or ask for the Waste or Air Management Contact at (715) 635-2101 or (715) 365-8900

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (SC) includes the following counties:
Crawford, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk
Waste Management Contact: Dennis Mack (608) 275-3466
Air Management Contact: Tom Roushar (608) 273-5603
or ask for the Waste or Air Management Contact at (608) 275-3266

SOUTHEAST REGION (SE) includes the following counties:
Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
Waste Management Contact: Frank Schultz (414) 263-8694
Air Management Contact: Dan Schramm (414) 263-8620 or (262) 884-2330
or ask for the Waste or Air Management Contact at (414) 263-8500

WEST CENTRAL REGION (WC) includes the following counties:
Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood
Waste Management Contact: Jill Schoen (715) 839-2788
Air Management Contact: Jeff Johnson (715) 838-8387
or ask for the Waste or Air Management Contact at (715) 839-3700

If you need assistance from Department of Natural Resources staff during non-business hours please call the emergency hotline at 1-800-943-0003 press 1 when prompted and ask the DNR Duty Officer to contact a local DNR representative to assist you.

References:
1NR 500.08(2)(a) Wisconsin Administrative Code
2NR 503.08 Wisconsin Administrative Code
3NR 429.04(1)(i), NR 30 and NR 502.11, Wisconsin Administrative Code

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