

## FACT SHEET



### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Emergency Debris Management

Office of Land Quality

(317) 234-8488 • (800) 451-6027

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Description:

- Emergency debris is any solid waste generated by natural and/or man-made disasters. Examples of emergency debris include building rubble, soil and sediments, green wastes (e.g., trees and shrubs), personal property, ash, and charred wood.
- Solid waste items can include both regulated and non-regulated materials.
  - Non-regulated materials include uncontaminated soil, rocks, bricks, concrete, road demolition material, trees, shrubs, natural vegetation, and sawdust from untreated wood.
  - Regulated materials include lumber, drywall, roofing, furniture, appliances, glass, plastics, metal, household trash, food waste, and other man-made building materials. Additional materials include, but are not limited to, vehicles, machinery, animal carcasses, and animal waste.
- Debris removal is necessary to:
  - Eliminate any immediate threat to lives, public health, and/or safety
  - Eliminate threats of significant damage to public or private property
  - Ensure the economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community-at-large
- Examples of debris management include:
  - Debris removal from a public right-of-way to allow the safe passage of emergency vehicles
  - Debris removal from public property to eliminate health and/or safety hazards

### IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for the safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- Specific requirements about proper disposal of solid waste can be found in 329 IAC 10.
- Specific requirements about proper disposal of hazardous waste can be found in 329 IAC 3.1.
- IDEM's Office of Air Quality must give prior approval for all emergency burning. Phone numbers are provided under **Additional Information** on this fact sheet.
  - IDEM may grant verbal approval to burn clean wood waste or vegetation resulting from a natural disaster, if alternative disposal methods are impractical. Alternative disposal methods that must be considered include separating for recycling, hauling to an approved landfill, and salvaging merchantable materials.
- Managing or disposing of dead animals is regulated by the Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) under 345 IAC 7-7-3. However, IDEM may assist BOAH in this area to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations. For more information, visit <http://www.in.gov/boah/2363.htm>.
- No asbestos-containing materials may be burned. Other materials, such as rubber, plastics and other regulated solid waste materials, excluding clean wood waste or vegetation, may not be burned.
- The following are requirements for temporary-staging sites:
  - All locations being considered for temporary-staging sites must obtain approval from IDEM's Solid Waste Compliance Section prior to use
  - Sites shall be limited to accepting emergency debris and must make provisions for security to ensure the site is not being used for routinely generated household waste
  - Temporary-staging sites shall not accept hazardous wastes, lead acid batteries, used oil filters, used motor oil, whole used or scrap tires, any item containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), radioactive waste, regulated polychlorinated biphenyl (PBC) waste and regulated infectious wastes
  - All temporary-staging sites must be located above the 100-year floodplain and outside of wetlands
  - The floodplain map used for locating the site must be from an original Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by FEMA, a copy of the Flood Prone Area Map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey or an equivalent constructed map that depicts the limits and elevations of any 100-year floodplain on or adjacent to the proposed site
  - All temporary-staging sites must have run-on/run-off controls in place

- All sites must be located at least ¼ mile from a public or private (surface or ground) water supply
- All sites must be located a minimum of ½ mile from any known caves, springs, or streams

### **Citizen's Role:**

- There are a number of safety and regulatory guidelines every citizen should follow to ensure proper emergency debris management:
  - Do not approach damaged buildings or debris areas unless it is determined to be safe
  - Use caution when handling any debris materials and do not disturb any asbestos containing materials or buildings
  - Use an IDEM approved management method for woody debris:
    - Leaving debris as is, either on site or moving it to another location with property owner approval
    - Chipping or on-site reduction and returning to place of generation
    - Chipping or on-site reduction and leaving for local residents to recycle and/or use for firewood
    - Hauling to municipal solid waste landfills, transfer facilities, or composting facilities
    - Burning of woody debris with IDEM approval
  - Follow IDEM approved management methods when handling, transferring, or disposing of emergency debris.

### **Additional Information:**

- For guidelines on managing emergency debris and emergency Disposal Site Certification, contact the Solid Waste Compliance Section toll free at (800) 451-6027, option 6 (toll free) or (317) 234-8488.
- For information on verbal approval to burn clean wood waste or vegetation resulting from a disaster, please contact IDEM's Office of Air Quality Compliance and Enforcement at (800) 451-6027, option 4 or (317) 233-5672.
- For questions about managing or disposing of deceased animals, contact BOAH at (317) 544-2400. For additional assistance, contact Becky Joniskan – IDEM's Permitting Branch Chief, Office of Land Quality – at (317) 232-7200.
- For more information about the disposal of hazardous waste, contact IDEM's Hazardous Waste Compliance Section at (317) 800-451-6027, option 6 or visit <https://www.in.gov/idem/landquality/2344.htm>. For additional assistance, contact your local Emergency Management Agency, which can be found by visiting [www.in.gov/dhs/2797.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/2797.htm).
- For after hours or holidays, contact IDEM's 24-Hour Emergency Spill Line at (888) 233-7745.