

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Debris Removal Quick Guide

Public Assistance Projects

Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), Public Assistance (PA) Program, is providing this information to **avoid jeopardizing applicants' eligibility for reimbursement** from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for debris removal and disposal.

Debris can include downed trees, silt, sand, building components, wreckage, and personal property. Debris must be separated for proper handling, transport and disposal of hazardous materials and toxic waste (e.g., asbestos containing materials, lead-based paints, household chemicals).

FEMA may reimburse reasonable costs associated with debris removal, such as labor, disposal fees, monitoring costs, equipment costs, material costs, or contract costs. Contracts must comply with Federal (44 CFR Part 13), State, and local procurement standards.

FEMA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be an **Eligible Applicant** as defined in the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, page 9, and have the legal responsibility, page 20, to be reimbursed for debris removal. <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance>
2. Debris was generated by the disaster event and is located on improved property or rights-of-way of an eligible Public Assistance applicant.
3. When there is a serious threat to lives, public health and safety, it eliminates the immediate threat of damage to improved property, or it assists the economic recovery of the community-at-large.

PERMITTING AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Source documentation** (e.g. timesheets, work logs, equipment use logs, receipts, load tickets, monitoring logs, contracts, mutual aid agreements)
2. **Document** volume or weight, and pickup location(s)
3. **Document** final disposal location(s) of debris (e.g. permitted landfill, recycling, etc.)
4. **Temporary debris storage** and reduction site(s) (TDSR)

To obtain approval for a new TDSR or final disposal location, or to activate a site pre-approved, contact your regional FL Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Permit information may be found here:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/info/permitting.htm>

5. **Debris burning (vegetative debris only):**

Must obtain a burn permit or letter of approval from the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire/Resources/Fire-Tools-and-Downloads/Web-Based-Open-Burn-Authorization-Request-WebOBA>

All burning **MUST** comply with established State regulations. In addition, there may be other local ordinances that apply in your area; be sure to check with your local fire department of county fire marshal prior to burning.

HANDLING DEBRIS

1. Segregate waste types (e.g. vegetative, C&D, white goods, household hazardous waste, electronic waste, animal carcasses, sand and mud, etc.)
2. Grinding, chipping, recycling, or disposal should be at permitted landfills are preferred methods of disposal over burning.
3. For questions regarding animal mortality waste disposal, contact FL State Agricultural Response Team online at <http://www.flsart.org/acmwig/>

FL STATE POINT OF CONTACT

To coordinate your debris removal operations or for more information please contact Henry Hernandez, Debris Program Officer, at 850-212-9511 or enrique.hernandez@em.myflorida.com.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) may be available to assist state agencies, county governments, towns and other subdivisions of state government to relieve storm caused impairments and imminent threats to watershed function. EWP may support removal of storm debris that poses a threat to health, life, or property. Not all storm debris in water is eligible for EWP. For more information, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/sc/home/> or contact Russell Morgan, State Conservationist, at (352) 338-9500.

USDA Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) may provide assistance with debris removal from farming or ranching operations through the Emergency Conservation Program, animal mortality through the Livestock Indemnity Program, and assistance to eligible non-industrial private forest owners thru the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. For more information contact your county FSA office. A listing of FL FSA county offices is available at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=fl&agency=fsa>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public site for debris management guidance, sample contracts and job aids available at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/EmergencyOperations/NationalResponseFramework.aspx>