IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DISASTER DEBRIS DISPOSAL OPTIONS

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting public health and the environment. During times of disaster the DNR waives specific solid waste disposal rules to speed safe and efficient disposal of generated wastes.

WOODY DEBRIS

Burning of woody debris is allowed under two provisions of Iowa code.

- 567 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 23.2(3) "a" Disaster Rubbish:
  The DNR will allow the accumulation of disaster debris (excluding potentially asbestos containing material) for burning at the site for the duration of the disaster proclamation. At the end of the proclamation no additional debris can be taken to the burn site. Following the end of the proclamation the managing jurisdiction will have an additional 60 days to complete the burn under 567 IAC 23.2(3) "a."

- 567 IAC 23.2(3) "b" Trees and Tree Trimmings:
  Burning trees and brush outside the time frame of 567 IAC 23.2(3) "a" is allowed if the following criteria are met:
  - Burn site must be operated by a local government entity
  - Access must be controlled and site supervised during burning
  - Conducted only when weather conditions are conducive to safe burning conditions
  - Site is at least one-fourth mile from inhabited property unless a written waiver is received or on file.
  - Only woody debris originating from trees or brush is burned (no structural debris, such as construction and demolition waste)

Chipping and Grinding of non-Construction and Demolition Wastes

- Woody debris can be chipped and ground without prior approval if:
  - Final disposal is a beneficial use, or it is
  - Taken to a composting site, or
  - Taken to a landfill

- Chipped/ground woody debris can be broadcast at the site where it originated with DNR notification

Beneficial Use

- Woody debris can be put to beneficial use as:
  - A fuel or energy source
  - Bulking agent for composting
  - Mulch
  - Animal bedding
  - Raw material in the manufacture of paper products, particle board, or similar materials

Landfilling

- While landfilling remains an option it is discouraged by DNR in favor of beneficial uses or volume reduction (burning and chipping).

Ash

- Ash from burning woody debris can be managed the following ways:
  - Landfill disposal (landfill can mix with soil for daily cover with DNR approval)
  - Carbon source and bulking agent at composting sites
  - Concrete ingredient
  - Land applied to surface to improve soil

Household Waste

Household waste generated during a disaster has special disposal requirements.

- **Curbside Collection:** If curbside collection is undertaken by a community:
  - Separate wastes
    - Household Hazardous Waste – paints, solvents, cleaners, household chemicals and lawn & garden chemicals, etc.
    - White & Electronic Goods – appliances, TVs, computers, etc.
    - Metals – furniture, filing cabinets, etc.
    - Garbage – mattresses, wood or plastic furniture, etc.
  - Know when the pickup is planned and ask for assistance if needed to meet deadlines

- **Drop-off Collection:** If drop-off collection is planned by a community:
  - Know where and when
  - Take separate loads of materials to insure shorter drop off times
    - Household Hazardous Waste
    - White & Electronic Goods
    - Metals
    - Garbage

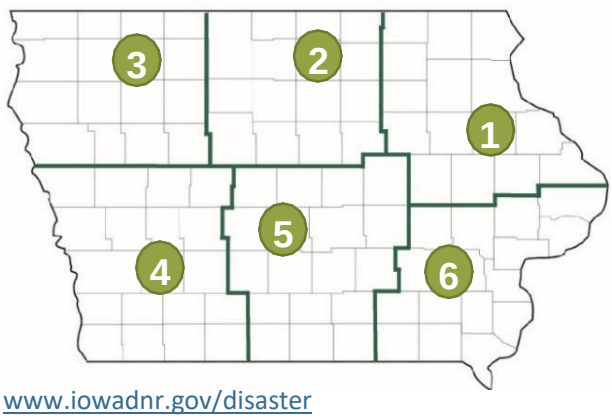
River Sand (not recommended for use in sandboxes or playgrounds

- Spread thinly on your property
- Utilized by local road departments
- Contact the US Army Corps of Engineers before disposing of sand in the river

Other Debris

Contact the local DNR field office for disposal options for the specific debris being dealt with.

DNR Field Office Locations



www.iowadnr.gov/disaster

Manchester
Field Office 1
563-927-2640

Mason City
Field Office 2
641-424-4073

Spencer
Field Office 3
712-262-4177

Atlantic
Field Office 4
712-243-1934

Des Moines
Field Office 5
515-725-0268

Washington
Field Office 6
319-653-2135

DNR Central Office
502 E. Ninth St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Emergency Response
515-725-8694

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT FORM

This form contains the information that FEMA requests from DNR when considering reimbursement requests. Please send this form to your Local DNR Field Office. DNR will send an approval letter to the applicant that can be used for FEMA reimbursement. DNR Field Office contact information can be found at https://www.iowadnr.gov/fieldoffice.

It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all other applicable federal, state, or local statutes, rules, regulations, ordinances, and orders.

Applicant: _____ County: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Debris Disposition (check all that apply, describe each activity, and provide location in the box below)

- ☐ Chipping/Grinding Vegetation for Reuse (mulch or other beneficial use)
- ☐ Chipping/Grinding Structural Material for Landfill Disposal
- ☐ Staging/Stockpiling (temporary only)
- ☐ Landfill (enter permit number & name) _____
- ☐ Burning of disaster debris (during disaster proclamation)
- ☐ Burning of tree and tree trimmings
- ☐ Temporary Transfer Station/Construction & Demolition Recovery Site/Material Recycling Site
- ☐ Other (attach detailed explanation for review): _____
- ☐ ASH from all burn types
  - ☐ -Landfill (enter permit number & name below)
  - ☐ -Land application/incorporation
  - ☐ -Reuse

1. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: _____
   Address/Location: _____ GPS (decimal degrees): _____
2. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: _____
   Address/Location: _____ GPS (decimal degrees): _____
3. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: _____
   Address/Location: _____ GPS (decimal degrees): _____

For additional sites, attach additional sheets

_____ Signature and Title

_____ Date