

## DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

During times of disaster the DNR works with local, state, and federal partners to safely and efficiently manage debris and generated wastes. This document lays out the various disaster debris disposal options commonly used by a community(s) to manage debris. It is recommended you work with the local DNR field office early in the process.

Review the debris management options in this document, then complete the form at the end. Upon completion submit:

- The form and any supporting documentation to your local DNR field office for environmental review.
- The form and documents to the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) for the historic site review coordination.

For more disaster related information including links to partner agencies check the [DNR's Disaster Assistance webpage](#).

### TEMPORARY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SITE (TDMS)

A Temporary Debris Management Site (TDMS), is established to temporarily store, process, and manage debris associated with a disaster. TDMSs include Emergency Solid Waste Transfer Permitted sites, Vegetative Debris Sites (burn and chipping/grinding sites), Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites and specialty sites established as needed. It is recommended local communities pre-plan the location of a TDMS and work with DNR and HSEM partners. Any guidance is preliminary pending a final review of the activities to be conducted at the site at the time the debris is generated.

- Operations should be carried out in a manner to minimize risk to public health and the environment.
- Steps should be taken to discourage the presence of scavengers, flies or other wildlife that can serve as a disease vector.
- Access to a TDMS should be controlled to reduce the risk to public health and safety, risk to the environment and to prevent inappropriate dumping of non-disaster waste.

Once a site's operations are no longer needed, the site must:

- Be returned to its pre-disaster condition.
- If an Emergency Solid Waste Transfer Permit is issued:
  - Notify your local DNR field office within 2 business days prior to permit expiration if an extension will be necessary.
  - Notify your local DNR field office within 1 business day of ceasing operations per its permit.

### EMERGENCY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER PERMIT

Emergency Solid Waste Transfer Permits are used to temporarily store, process, and manage solid waste associated with a disaster. The DNR may issue an Emergency Solid Waste Transfer Permit if more solid waste is produced by an extraordinary event than can be managed by a sanitary disposal project.

Once a site is selected, the applicant must ensure:

- All loads brought to the site are visually inspected. After inspection, loads shall be directed to proper areas for management.
- Collection of spilled solid waste occurs as soon as possible to minimize risk to public health and the environment. If spillage occurs during transportation to the site, the spilled material must be cleaned up and the local DNR field office notified as soon as possible.

The DNR recommends sites follow best management practices, including but not limited to, the following:

- All areas where solid waste activities occur should be performed on an impervious surface.
- Adequate staff and equipment should be on-site during operations to properly manage the site.
- Solid waste should be processed in a timely manner in accordance with the site management plan.
- At the conclusion of each day's work, all collected material should be secured.

## **NON-HAZARDOUS DEBRIS**

### **Burning of woody debris may be allowed in certain situations.**

Open burning is any burning of combustible materials where the products of combustion are emitted into the open air without passing through a control structure (chimney or stack).

Trees and tree trimmings may be open burned if the requirements of 567 IAC 23.2(3)"b" are met regardless of a disaster declaration from the Governor. Open burning of any other non-exempt materials requires a waiver granted by the department.

During a Governor's declared disaster, the open burning of disaster debris is allowed for the duration of the declared disaster period.

- Asbestos containing material regulated by National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) must be excluded from the disaster debris. For assistance contact the [DNR asbestos staff](#).

The following best practices are recommended:

- Small controlled burns are recommended versus a large single burn pile.
- Burn site should be operated by a local government entity.
- Access should be controlled and site supervised during burning.
- Conduct burning only when weather conditions are safe and favorable to surrounding properties, including all inhabited buildings.
- Open burning should be outside the 100-year flood plain.
- Ash resulting from open burning is solid waste and subject to solid waste management requirements as noted below.

For more details visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/openburning>.

### **Chipping and Grinding of non-Construction and Demolition Wastes**

- Woody debris can be chipped and ground without prior DNR approval if:
  - Final disposition is a beneficial use (see below), or it is
  - Taken to a composting site for an approved use, or
  - Taken to a landfill for final disposal
- Chipped/ground woody debris can be broadcast at the unimproved site where it originated. The local DNR field office must be consulted prior to broadcasting to ensure requirements are met.
- Woody debris can be put to beneficial use as:
  - A fuel or energy source
  - Bulking agent for composting
  - Mulch
  - Animal bedding

### **Landfilling**

- Landfilling of waste must be approved by the landfill(s) serving the community where the debris originated.
- Some landfills may require disaster debris be ground prior to accepting for disposal. Contact the local DNR field office for specific requirements before grinding debris.
  - During the grinding operation debris must be wetted to prevent the generation of dust.
  - Runoff from grinding operations must be contained and properly disposed of.
  - Renovation and demolition waste is subject to NESHAP regulations and cannot be ground without an asbestos inspection.

- Hazardous materials (household and commercial), white goods, electronics and metal must be excluded from grinding.

## Ash

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

## Household Waste

Household waste generated during a disaster has special disposal requirements.

- **Curbside Collection:** If curbside collection is undertaken by a community:
  - Separate wastes ([Door Hanger - English](#), [Door Hanger - Espanol](#))
  - 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.
  - Putrescent Waste - food (human and pet) and any other organic material capable of rotting or spoilage
  - 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 ensure shorter drop off times
  - Household Hazardous Waste
  - White & Electronic Goods
  - Metals
  - Garbage

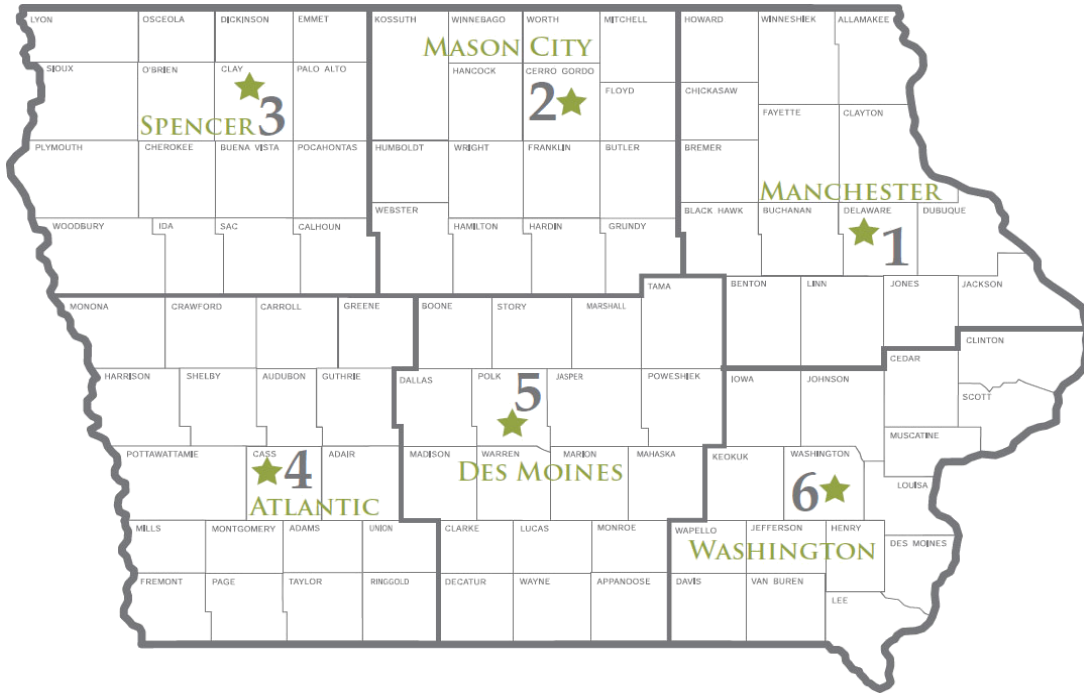
## Soil, Mud and Sand

- Spread thinly on your property. Avoid wells and water bodies.
- Local road departments can utilize the material.
- Contact the [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) before disposing of sand in the river.
- Soil, mud, and sand impacted by flood waters are NOT recommended to be used in sandboxes or playgrounds.

## OTHER DEBRIS

The DNR regulates a variety of wastes that can be generated during disasters. Some wastes are specific to particular disaster types while others are less common. To find information on the disposal of wastes not listed specifically in this document, contact your local [DNR field office](#) or utilize [solid waste factsheets](#).

Some waste can be reused by other industries. When planning for a disaster, you're encouraged to reach out to the Iowa Waste Exchange for ideas on reuse options for solid waste. During disaster recovery, the Iowa Waste Exchange can also be a partner when dealing with solid waste. To explore these options, contact the [Iowa Waste Exchange](#) for more information.



**Field Office 1 (NE Iowa)**  
 1101 Commercial Ct Ste 10  
 Manchester IA 52057  
 P: 563-927-2640

**Field Office 4 (SW Iowa)**  
 1401 Sunnyside Ln  
 Atlantic IA 50022  
 P: 712-243-1934

**Field Office 2 (NC Iowa)**  
 2300 15<sup>th</sup> S. SW  
 Mason City IA 50401  
 P: 641-424-4073

**Field Office 5 (SC Iowa)**  
 6200 Park Ave Ste 200  
 Des Moines IA 50321  
 P: 515-725-0268

**Field Office 3 (NW Iowa)**  
 1900 N Grand Ave Ste E17  
 Spencer IA 51301  
 P: 712-262-4177

**Field Office 6 (SE Iowa)**  
 1023 W Madison  
 Washington IA 52353  
 P: 319-653-2135

**Important Contacts**

- Environmental Field Office Duty Officer - 515-725-8694 (select option 1)
- Flood Plain Permit Assistance - 866-849-0321 or [floodplain-help@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:floodplain-help@dnr.iowa.gov)
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management - [Disaster Services](#)
- Iowa Department of Health and Human Services - [Disaster Services](#)
- [Iowa Ready.Gov](#)

### DEBRIS MANAGEMENT FORM

This form is intended to streamline the review process for disaster debris management. The review process requires submission of this document to two separate entities:

- The [local DNR field office](#) for state environmental regulatory review and
- The [Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#) (HSEM) for historic site review.

The local DNR field office and HSEM will notify the applicant of review results. If additional information is needed, the applicant will be contacted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with 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)

- Temporary Debris Management Site
  - Burning of non-asbestos disaster debris (during Governor's Disaster Proclamation)
  - Burning of vegetative debris (trees, brush, corn stalks)
  - Chipping/Grinding of vegetation debris for beneficial use
  - Chipping/Grinding of non-hazardous solid waste for landfill disposal
  - Emergency Solid Waste Transfer permit
- Landfill (enter permit number & name): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Disposal Option (attach detailed explanation for review): \_\_\_\_\_
- Ash from all burn types
  - Landfill (enter permit number & name): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Land application/incorporation (with DNR Field Office approval)
  - Reuse (method): \_\_\_\_\_

If activity is located within a [FEMA mapped floodplain](#) contact the [DNR Floodplain Section](#) for requirements.

Example - TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY (Checked option above): Vegetative Debris Chipping

Address/Location: 123 E West Rd, City GPS (decimal degrees): 41.59217, -93.60735

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): \_\_\_\_\_

4. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS (decimal degrees): \_\_\_\_\_

5. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS (decimal degrees): \_\_\_\_\_

6. TYPE OF DEBRIS DISPOSAL ACTIVITY: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS (decimal degrees): \_\_\_\_\_

*For additional sites, attach additional sheets*

Attach Supporting Documents to this Submission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Agency Review Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc Becky Jolly, DNR Solid Waste Section  
fc Disaster TDMS shared folder