

## DISASTER DEBRIS DISPOSAL OPTIONS

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for protecting public health and the environment. During times of disaster the DNR may waive specific solid waste disposal rules to speed safe and efficient disposal of generated wastes. For more information including links to partner agencies check the [DNR's Disaster Assistance](#) webpage.

### Temporary Debris Management Site (TDMS)

The DNR may issue an emergency solid waste transfer permit for TDMS sites if more solid waste is produced by an extraordinary event than can be managed by a sanitary disposal project. TDMS are used to temporarily store, process and manage solid waste associated with a disaster. While a TDMS can be pre-planned, a permit cannot be issued until the solid waste to be managed is known. A TDMS shall follow the best management practices listed here.

- All areas where solid waste activities occur should be performed on an impervious surface.
- Operations should be carried out in a manner to minimize risk to public health and the environment. Steps should be taken to discourage scavengers, flies or other wildlife that can serve as a disease vector.
- All loads brought to the TDMS shall be visually inspected and debris directed to the proper areas of the site.
- 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 TDMS management plan.
- Spilled solid waste shall be collected as soon as possible to minimize risk to public health and safety and the environment. If spillage occurs during transportation to the site, the spilled material must be cleaned up as soon as possible and the DNR contacted.
- At the conclusion of each day's work, all collected material should be secured in an appropriate storage/processing location.
- The TDMS must be returned to its pre-permit condition following completion of site activities.
- The DNR must be notified 48 hours prior to the expiration of the permit if a permit extension is necessary.
- The DNR must be notified within 24 hours of ceasing operations at a permitted TDMS.

TDMS also require a historical/cultural site assessment coordinated by Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

### VEGETATIVE 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). Burning of disaster debris may be allowed in certain situations:

- During a governor's declared disaster, the open burning of rubbish, including landscape waste, is allowed for the duration of the declared disaster period. The burning of rubbish, tree and brush waste should follow the best management practices below:
  - Burn site must be operated by a local government entity.
  - Access must be controlled and site supervised prior to and during burning.
  - Conducted only when weather conditions are conducive to safe burning conditions.
  - Recommend at least one-fourth mile separation distance from inhabited property.
  - Temporary stockpiles of woody debris are allowed in the floodplain but may require a permit.
  - The DNR recommends small controlled burns versus a large single burn pile.
- Ash from open burning is considered solid waste and is subject to solid waste management requirements as noted below.
- Asbestos containing material must be excluded from the rubbish per federal National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations.

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 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 ground 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.
    - 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 insure shorter drop off times
    - Household Hazardous Waste
    - White & Electronic Goods
    - Metals
    - Garbage

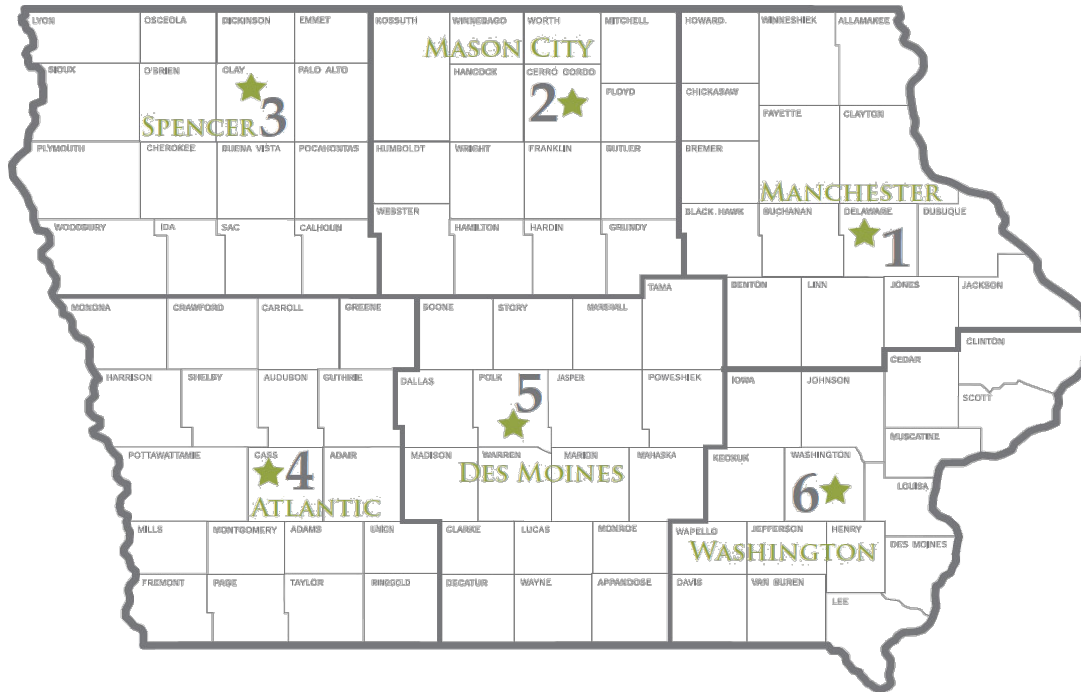
## Soil, Mud and Sand

- Spread thinly on your property. Avoid wells and water bodies on your property.
- Utilized by local road departments
- Contact the US Army Corps of Engineers before disposing of sand in the river
- It is not recommended that sand impacted by flood waters 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 [environmental field office](#) or utilize [DNR solid waste factsheets](#).

Some waste can be reused by other industries. When planning for a disaster you can also reach out to the Iowa Waste Exchange for ideas in 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 Avenue, Suite  
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)

**DEBRIS MANAGEMENT FORM**

This form is intended to streamline the review process for disaster debris management. The form should be submitted to your local Iowa DNR office as early in the debris management process as possible to ensure proper management of debris. The local DNR field office will review the request and if approved, sign and date the form. If additional information is needed staff will contact the requester. 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. This includes historic preservation rules required for federal disaster reimbursements.

**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 (material should be wetted for dust control)
- Temporary Debris Management Site - Form completion & DNR signature creates an Emergency Transfer Permit.
- Landfill (enter permit number & name) \_\_\_\_\_
- Burning of non-asbestos disaster debris (during disaster proclamation)
- Burning of tree and tree trimmings
- Other (attach detailed explanation for review): \_\_\_\_\_
- ASH from all burn types
  - Landfill (enter permit number & name below)
  - Land application/incorporation (2 tons/acre unless approved by the DNR)
  - Reuse (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- If activity is located within a FEMA mapped floodplain has the DNR Floodplain Section been consulted?

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

*For additional sites, attach additional sheets*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized DNR Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date