

## Debris Removal Quick Guide

Please review the guidelines below for reimbursement of debris removal costs you may incur as a result of Hurricane Florence occurring from September-ongoing. North Carolina Emergency Management Public Assistance Section is providing this information early in an effort to inform applicants on requirements for removing debris and reimbursement.

**The FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (April 2018, page 44) states:**

**Debris Removal** activities, such as clearance, removal, and disposal, are eligible as Category A if the removal is in the public interest based on whether the work; eliminates immediate threats to lives, public health, and safety; eliminates immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property; ensures economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large or; mitigates risk to life and property by removing substantially damaged structures and associated structures and appurtenances as needed to convert property acquired using HMGP funds to uses compatible with open space, recreation, or wetlands management practices. Such removal must be completed within 2 years of the declaration date unless extended by the FEMA Assistant Administrator of the Recovery Directorate.

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 (2 CFR Part 200.317-326), State, and local procurement standards.

### FEMA Eligibility Requirements

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/media-library/assets/documents/111781>

Debris was generated by the disaster event and is located on improved property or right-of-ways of an eligible Public Assistance applicant.

### Permitting and Documentation Requirements

1. Debris **volume** or **weight** and **pickup location**,
2. **Source documentation** (e.g. timesheets, work logs, equipment use logs, receipts, load tickets, monitoring logs, contracts, mutual aid agreements),
3. Final **disposal location** of debris (e.g. name, address and GPS coordinates for the permitted landfill, recycling facility, etc.),
4. **Temporary disaster debris staging areas:**

To **obtain approval for a new site** or to **activate a site pre-approved** by the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section, contact the Solid Waste Section Regional Representative for your county. Contact information for regional staff may be found here: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/quick-links/emergency-disaster-debris-management>

5. If **burning** (vegetative debris only):
  - **Burn permit** from North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), Division of Forestry. For information on obtaining a burn permit, go to:  
[http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn\\_permits/burn\\_permits\\_main.htm](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm).
  - **Letter of approval** or **permit** from NCDEQ Division of Air Quality:  
<https://deq.nc.gov/permits-rules/permit-assistance-and-guidance>
  - An **air curtain burner** must be utilized for burning vegetative debris.
  - Burning may only occur on **green or yellow air quality action** days between **8 am to 6 pm**. For info on air quality forecast go to <https://xapps.ncdenr.org/aq/ForecastCenterEnvista>
  - Record **daily quantity** of debris burned.

- Ashes must be disposed of in a **permitted location**. Do not bury on-site.

### 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 disposals within permitted landfills are preferred methods of disposal over burning.
3. For questions regarding animal mortality waste disposal, please contact the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Veterinary Division hotline at 866-645-9403. For specific questions regarding livestock and poultry contact Dr. Mike Neault and Dr. Mike Martin, respectively at 919-707-3254. For the IMT Disposal Team contact Dr. Jim Kittrell (919-740-8733); Joe Hudyncia (919-264-9895) or Mike Mayes (919-306-3933). For statute and rules governing disposal, see: Statute GS 106-403

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=106-403>

The Veterinary Division may be found online at <http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/>.

### Point of Contact

To coordinate your debris removal operations or for more information please contact Mary Glasscock, Public Assistance Supervisor at 919-825-2563 [mary.glasscock@ncdps.gov](mailto:mary.glasscock@ncdps.gov) or Andy Innis, State Public Assistance Officer at 919-218-3191 [andy.innis@ncdps.gov](mailto:andy.innis@ncdps.gov).

### Other Federal Agencies Debris Removal Programs

#### 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/main/nc/programs/financial/ewp/> or contact Jim Kjelgaard at (919) 873-2130.

#### 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 thru the Livestock Indemnity Program at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index>

...and assistance to eligible non-industrial private forest owners thru the Emergency Forest Restoration Program at:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index>

For more information contact your county FSA office. A listing of NC FSA county offices is available at: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=nc&agency=fsa>

### More Information Online

- Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Version 3.1 (April 2018) has replaced all previous PA information: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/111781>
- The NCDEQ Solid Waste Section homepage is located at: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/waste-management/solid-waste-section>

- The North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), Division of Forestry information on burn permits may be found at:  
[http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn\\_permits/burn\\_permits\\_main.htm](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm).
- The NCDEQ Division of Air Quality homepage is located at:  
<http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality>
- The NCDEQ Division of Air Quality open burning information is available at:  
<http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-enforcement/open-burning>
- For NCDEQ Division of Air Quality rules on open burning visit:  
<http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-rules/rules/open-burning>
- NCDEQ Division of Air Quality regional offices may be found at:  
<http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/regional-offices>
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ENGLink public site for debris management guidance, sample contracts and job aids available at:  
<https://eportal.usace.army.mil/sites/ENGLink/DebrisManagement/default.aspx>