



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Natural Disaster Assistance for Missouri Citizens - What To Do With Disaster Debris

Department of Natural Resources fact sheet

07/2019

Department of Natural Resources Director: Carol S. Comer

PB00756

800-361-4827

The following guidance applies only after the governor has declared a state of emergency due to damage caused by a natural disaster.

After the governor issues an executive order giving the director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources the authority to temporarily waive or suspend the rules and regulations, the department may issue variances from environmental regulations during the emergency and subsequent recovery period. Failure to comply with federal or state regulations could affect financial assistance reimbursement.

Check with the department's nearest regional office for details on how wastes shall be handled before implementing any of these special practices. A list of regional offices is found in this document and on the web at dnr.mo.gov/regions/regions.htm.

Appliances

Appliances include clothes washers, dryers, water heaters, trash compactors, dishwashers, conventional ovens, ranges, stoves, woodstoves, air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers.

Appliances damaged by the storm can be disposed of in a sanitary landfill only if the governor declares a state of emergency, issues an executive order, and the department has issued appropriate waivers. Cities and counties are encouraged to coordinate collection of storm damaged appliances, using their own public works vehicles or contract help. Cities and counties should establish centralized collection centers to accumulate damaged appliances. Refrigerants should be legally recovered from air conditioners, freezers and refrigerators before recycling them or sending them to a landfill.

Processing and Recycling Appliances for Residents and Business Owners

Individuals needing to dispose of damaged appliances should contact their local officials first for collection of drop-off information, either for recycling or disposal. In rural areas where local assistance is not available, individuals should contact scrap metal recyclers.

For a partial list of recyclers, contact the department's Solid Waste Management Program at 800-361-4827 or 573-751-5401. Many recyclers are listed in the yellow pages of your local telephone directory.

Dead Animal Disposal

Small accumulations of dead animals should be buried on site as soon as possible to reduce public health hazards and odor problems.

Large accumulations of dead animals will require special consideration. Contact one of the following offices:

- State Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture), 573-751-3377
- Public Health Veterinarian, 573-751-6136
- Department of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Management Program, 800-361-4827 or 573-751-5401

Hazardous Chemical Waste (Drums, Tanks and Barrels)

If you find sealed drums, tanks or barrels of unknown contents, call the department's Environmental Emergency Response hotline at 573-634-2436. If a propane tank is in flood debris, a company distributing gas may be able to identify the tank and return it to its proper location. (Propane tanks are identified with serial numbers.) All above ground or underground leaks of fuel or other hazardous substances should be reported to the department's Environmental Emergency Response hotline at 573-634-2436.

For more information contact the department's Hazardous Waste Program at 573-751-3176 or the regional office in your area (listed below).

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Cities and counties are encouraged to establish HHW collection programs for these flood wastes. Homeowners and workers should use caution when cleaning up household products in leaking or damaged containers. Wear rubber gloves and avoid breathing any fumes or dust. Avoid working around these damaged products in confined or poorly ventilated areas. For more information contact the regional office in your area (listed below).

Sandbags

Sandbags may be used as clean fill material so long as they are subsequently covered with a layer of soil or other structural materials to a depth of at least 12 inches. Sandbags may also be used as daily cover at permitted sanitary landfills. Placement of the sand in playgrounds, sandboxes or other areas of direct human contact soon after use in sandbags should be avoided, as the sand may have been exposed to harmful bacteria in floodwaters. Bacteria will dissipate with time and exposure to the elements. Sand could be stockpiled and used for winter road sand, fill, concrete or mortar sand, and other uses.

Sandbags may be stored indefinitely in piles so long as local ordinances are observed. Crushed limestone is considered clean fill and may be used where structurally appropriate.

Sand from broken bags should be prevented from eroding into waterways or storm sewers. If sandbags are emptied of their contents, the bags themselves must be properly disposed of in a permitted disposal facility to reduce the potential for litter problems. Testing will not be required unless obviously contaminated. Follow proper procedures for disposing of sand that appears to have been contaminated by petroleum or other hazardous materials.

For more information contact the department's Solid Waste Management Program at 573-751-5401 or the regional office in your area (see list below).

Sediment and Silt

Sediment and silt are considered clean fill and will not require sampling. If the sediment or silt is known to be contaminated with petroleum products or other chemicals contact the department's Environmental Emergency Response hotline at 573-634-2436.

Storm-Damaged Home Furnishings

- Home furnishings including carpeting, draperies, linens, kitchenware, furniture and mattresses should be disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill. Contact your local municipality about possible bulk collection.
- Because of toxic fumes, these items must not be open burned.

Structural Debris and Treated Lumber

Concrete, rock, brick and other materials defined as "clean fill" under state law may be buried onsite. Treated wood and painted or coated construction debris shall be handled as shown below.

- Contact municipalities for information on local collection of this material or the location of a centralized drop-off area.
- Material containing asbestos (transite siding, pipe, insulation), tires and other materials that may generate toxic fumes (plastics, synthetic materials and shingles) must not be burned.
- Commercial, institutional, industrial and residential structures with more than four living units (or that are a part of a larger project) must be inspected for asbestos containing materials prior to demolition or renovation activities. Inspections must be conducted by department certified inspectors. Department notification is required prior to demolition or renovation activities of these structures. Asbestos removal may be needed depending upon the type and amount of asbestos materials identified. Lists of inspectors and asbestos contractors may be obtained from the Air Pollution Control Program at 573-751-4817 or at dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/asbestos/inspectors/index.php and dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/asbestos/contractors/index.php. Additional information may also be found in the department's publication *How to Handle Asbestos Containing Debris* at dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2121.htm.

Tires

Tires must not be burned or buried on-site. Tires should be cut into thirds and buried in a permitted sanitary landfill. You may also contact a local tire retailer for other disposal options or contact a permitted waste tire hauler in your area. A [list of scrap tire haulers](#) may be obtained from the department at dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/tires/docs/wthaulerlist.pdf. Individuals or municipalities who accumulate more than 500 tires should contact the department's Solid Waste Management Program at 800-361-4827 or 573-751-5401 for guidance.

Untreated wood, vegetation, structural debris and lumber

Wood or untreated lumber may be mulched for on-site use if chippers are available. Untreated lumber does not include painted material, CCA or creosote impregnated materials. Vegetative material may be disposed of in a permitted sanitary or demolition landfill if the material is greater than six inches in diameter. For vegetative material or debris that is less than six inches in diameter, please refer to the department's *Homeowner's Composting Guide* at dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/composting/index.html or contact your municipality for information on local collection of this material or for centralized drop-off areas.

Open burning of wood may be permitted, although extreme caution is urged, due to possible gas leaks and other storm-related problems. Be sure to contact your local fire authorities prior to any burning. Some local authorities regulate open burning, so check with them first. **Tires or used oil may not be used to start fires.** Straw bales or virgin petroleum products, such as diesel fuel, are acceptable accelerants. **Burning, unless addressed under an executive order or waiver by the department director, will be allowed only when in compliance with the department's open burning rule and with approval of local fire officials. Open burning permits may be required and are obtained by calling the local Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Regional Office nearest you (see list below). Local authorities or permits may impose additional requirements.** The ash may be buried on-site with a minimum two feet of clean soil.

In rural areas, to minimize impact on neighbors when open burning, start fires after 10 a.m. and discontinue burning by 4 p.m. For more detail on the department's open burning rule, please refer to the department's *Facts on Open Burning Under Missouri Regulations* fact sheet at dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2047.htm or contact your local regional office for information.

Regional Offices

The department's Regional Offices provide field inspections, complaint investigation and front-line troubleshooting, problem solving and compliance assistance on environmental issues and emergencies.

Kansas City Regional Office

500 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086-4710
816-251-0700
816-622-7044 fax

Counties served: Andrew, Atchison, Bates, Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Harrison, Henry, Holt, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Nodaway, Pettis, Platte, Ray and Worth.

Northeast Regional Office

1709 Prospect Drive
Macon, MO 63552-2602
660-385-8000
660-385-8090 fax

Counties served: Adair, Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton, Clark, Cole, Cooper, Grundy, Howard, Knox, Lewis, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Marion, Mercer, Moniteau, Monroe, Osage, Pike, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Saline, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby and Sullivan.

Southeast Regional Office

2155 N. Westwood Blvd.
P.O. Box 1420
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
573-840-9750
573-840-9754 fax

Counties served: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Maries, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Pulaski, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington and Wayne.

Southwest Regional Office

2040 W. Woodland
Springfield, MO 65807-5912
417-891-4300
417-891-4399 fax

Counties served: Barry, Barton, Camden, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Douglas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Laclede, Lawrence, McDonald, Miller, Morgan, Newton, Ozark, Polk, St. Clair, Stone, Taney, Vernon, Webster and Wright.

St. Louis Regional Office

7545 S. Lindbergh, Suite 210
St. Louis, MO 63125
314-416-2960
314-416-2970 fax

Counties served: Franklin, Gasconade, Jefferson, Lincoln, Montgomery, St. Charles, St. Louis and Warren.

Nothing in this document may be used to implement any enforcement action or levy any penalty unless promulgated by rule under chapter 536 or authorized by statute.

For more information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
800-361-4827 or 573-751-1300
<http://dnr.mo.gov>
