North Carolina Emergency Management

Debris Removal Quick Guide

*Review these guidelines to seek reimbursement for debris removal costs incurred from the Winter Ice Storm on March 6-7, 2014. North Carolina Emergency Management Public Assistance Section is providing this information early in an effort to inform applicants about requirements for removing debris and reimbursement.*

The **FEMA Public Assistance Policy Digest** (FEMA 321 / January 2008, p. 31)states:

***Debris Removal*** *may be eligible for PA Program assistance in the disaster area when there is a serious threat to lives, public health and safety, it eliminates the immediate threat of damage to improved property, or it assists the economic recovery of the community-at-large.*

*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 (44 CFR Part 13), State, and local procurement standards.*

**FEMA Eligibility Requirements**

* You must be an **Eligible Applicant** as defined in the Public Assistance Policy Digest ( p.41) AND
* You must have the legal responsibility (p.44) to be reimbursed for debris removal AND  
  (see www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/pdigest08.pdf)
* 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. permitted landfill, recycling, 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 Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section, contact the Solid Waste Section Regional Representative for your county, Dennis Shackelford, Eastern District Supervisor   
(910-433-3349) or Jason Watkins, Western District Supervisor (336-771-5092). Contact information for regional staff may be found here: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=9be326d8-aeee-4b97-a39f-9672bf09418f&groupId=38361>

1. If burning (vegetative debris only):

* **Burn permit** from NCDENR Division of Forestry. For information on obtaining a burn permit, go to <http://ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm>.
* **Letter of approval** or **permit** from NCDENR Division of Air Quality, <http://daq.state.nc.us/>
* 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/ForecastCenter>
* 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. Preferred methods of disposal include grinding, chipping, recycling, or disposals within permitted landfills.
3. For questions regarding animal mortality waste disposal, please contact Dr. David Marshall (general questions), Dr. Sarah Mason (poultry), or Dr. Tom Rayd (livestock) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Veterinary Division at 919-733-7601.   
   For statute and rules governing disposal, see: Statute GS 106-403 [www.ncleg.net/gascripts/statutes/statutelookup.pl?statute=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 for questions about debris removal operations

Andy Innis, NCEM State Public Assistance Officer 919-218-3191 or [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.   
See [www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov) or call Matt Flint, Assistant State Conservationist at 919-873-2124.

**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, and assistance to eligible non-industrial private forest owners thru the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. For more information contact your county FSA office. A listing of NC FSA county offices is available at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=nc&agency=fsa>

More Information Online

Public Assistance Debris Management Guide (FEMA 325) - [www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/policy.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/policy.shtm)

**Additional FEMA policies on debris** - [www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/9500toc.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/9500toc.shtm).

**Public Assistance Debris Removal – Applicant Contracting Checklist** (FEMA Public Assistance Fact Sheet 9580.201) [www.fema.gov/public-assistance-9500-series-policy-publications/debris-removal-applicant's-contracting-checklist](http://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-9500-series-policy-publications/debris-removal-applicant's-contracting-checklist)

**Public Assistance Debris Monitoring** - [www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/fema\_327\_debris\_monitoring.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/fema_327_debris_monitoring.pdf)

**Public Assistance Debris Estimating Field Guide** - [www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/fema\_329\_debris\_estimating.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/fema_329_debris_estimating.pdf)

Public Assistance Debris Monitoring Fact Sheet 9580.203 - [www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9580\_203.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9580_203.pdf)

**NCDENR Solid Waste Section** - <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw>

**NC Forest Service burn permits** - <http://ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm>

**NCDENR Division of Air Quality** - <http://daq.state.nc.us/>.

**NCDENR Division of Air Quality open burning information** - <http://daq.state.nc.us/enf/openburn/>

**NCDENR Division of Air Quality rules on open burning** - <http://daq.state.nc.us/rules/rules/Sec1900.shtml>

**NCDENR Division of Air Quality regional offices** - <http://daq.state.nc.us/about/regional/>

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** ENGLink public site for debris management guidance, sample contracts and job aids <https://eportal.usace.army.mil/sites/ENGLink/DebrisManagement/default.aspx>