



## **Storm Event Preparedness and Response Fact Sheet for Municipalities and Residents**

### **Solid Waste Management - Household Garbage & Storm Debris**

- ▶ **Each municipality is responsible for coordinating the clearance, removal, storage and disposal of all debris deposited on municipal properties within their boundaries and jurisdictions.**
  
- ▶ **The responsibility for debris removal on private property is primarily with the homeowner or business. Municipal Officials will inform residents as to any arrangements being made for the collection of debris left at curbside.**  
**Note: Some towns may not conduct curbside pickup.**
  
- ▶ **Household Waste** - The following activities provide a listing of activities that should be considered in managing household garbage (this includes spoiled food):
  - Determine if the municipal solid waste disposal sites (transfer stations) are safe and able to accept waste:
    - Municipal Officials should advise residents concerning the status of the transfer station, and if open, provide residents with hours of its operation and instructions about its use and any restrictions.
    - Spoiled food should be disposed of at the direction of the local health official/department of public works.
  
  - When normal collection service is not available:
    - Listen for any State advisories offering guidance.
    - Municipal officials should issue instructions that will inform how household garbage and other solid waste must be prepared for disposal and provide estimated timeframes for when pick-up of the household garbage will occur.
    - To reduce the overall volume of waste, residents should continue to normal separation of mandated recyclables (cardboard, paper, glass, cans, etc.) from the garbage.
    - Residents, if possible, should place all garbage in plastic garbage bags with tops tied.
  
- ▶ **Storm Debris** - The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) encourages municipalities and residents to segregate storm debris so as to expedite and reduce costs in the proper handling, recycling and disposal of this material. Some debris material (clean wood; scrap metal) has value and can help defray the clean-up costs incurred by the town. Do not stack or stockpile debris on sidewalks or against or around utility poles, utility meters, fire hydrants, storm drains, and/or mailboxes.

The major types and management of debris that could be generated from a storm can include:

- **Green waste/Vegetative debris.** Green waste (downed trees, branches, etc.) must be separated from other debris, cut to manageable size and removed and be processed at a permitted Temporary Debris Storage and Reduction Site (TDSRS) or as directed by the municipality. Vegetation debris cannot be easily picked up or disposed of if it is mixed with other debris.

If any signs of pest infestation are observed prior to loading debris for removal to a temporary staging area and it is safe to leave the wood where it is, then do so and follow the reporting instructions below. At the TDSRS, municipalities will be required to visually assess downed trees for evidence of **pest infestation**, including but not limited to **Asian Longhorn Beetle** and the **Emerald Ash Borer** if such assessment has not already occurred prior to moving the wood; special requirements for the isolation of pest infested wood will be required.

To become familiar with the signs indicating these types of infestation, see CT DEEP webpage: [www.ct.gov/dep/forestry](http://www.ct.gov/dep/forestry).

- **Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D).** C&D consists of debris resulting from structural damage to buildings and will include items such as aggregate (concrete, brick, and block), wood (both clean and treated), roofing and siding materials, wallboard, metals, carpeting and flooring, insulation, glass, tile, window coverings, plastic pipe, heating and ventilating, and air conditioning systems and their components, furnishings and fixtures. Residents should contact their Town Official to determine if the town can accept these types of materials at the Town's Transfer Station. Other options are to bring these materials to a permitted Volume Reduction Facility.

Access CTDEEP website for listing of **Volume Reduction Facilities**: [www.ct.gov/dep/solidwaste](http://www.ct.gov/dep/solidwaste) and click on Volume Reduction Facilities

Please note that C&D debris may contain asbestos containing materials. For more information if asbestos containing materials is suspected, please contact your local health officials. Residents can also access the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Asbestos website at: [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph) and search asbestos.

- **Other types of wastes:** Other types of waste may result from a storm event. Please stay tuned to State and local official advisories from print or electronic media for additional information.
- **Contact CT DEEP:** Robert Isner, Division Director or Chris Nelson, Program Supervisor at 860-424-3023 or [robert.isner@ct.gov](mailto:robert.isner@ct.gov) or [chris.nelson@ct.gov](mailto:chris.nelson@ct.gov).