



## MAY 2008 PICHER, OKLAHOMA TORNADO Guidelines for Debris Management

This fact sheet is intended to assist public officials in making decisions about debris management. (This fact sheet **does not cover utility poles**. Please see the fact sheet entitled "Utility Pole Reuse & Disposal" dated May 12, 2008.) There are several key considerations in the decision process. They are:

- Need for rapid removal
- Reimbursement by the Federal Government
- Protection of the public health and environment
- Future liability

### OPTIONS

DEQ intends that storm debris be collected and taken to a permitted landfill. As such, DEQ recommends that the town establish at least two staging areas: one for general storm debris and one exclusively for trees and tree limbs.

In the general storm debris staging area waste should be separated into piles as follows:

- Building debris (wood, sheet rock, carpeting, etc)
- Metal (appliances, vehicles, sheet metal)
- Household Hazardous Waste (paint, pesticides, cleaning supplies, etc)

Your potential recovery of reimbursable costs from FEMA is dependent upon compliance with all applicable state and federal environmental requirements. This guidance is designed to help you comply with those regulations.

Staging areas must be registered with the DEQ and must meet the following criteria:

- Staging areas must be located above the 100-year floodplain and outside known wetlands. (The floodplain map used for locating the site shall be an original Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a copy of the Flood Prone Area Map prepared by the US Geological Survey or an equivalent constructed map that depicts the limits and elevations of any 100 year floodplain on or adjacent to the proposed site.)
- Staging areas must be located at least ¼ mile from a public or private water supply (surface or ground).
- Staging areas must be monitored to ensure that hazardous waste, putrescible waste, rubber, and plastics are segregated from other wastes.
- Additional federal criteria must also be met in selecting these sites in order to qualify for FEMA reimbursement. (*Consult FEMA for assistance with these criteria.*)

### CHIPPING TREE LIMBS

The preferred option for disposing of tree limbs is chipping the limbs for re-use as mulch or for volume reduction for later disposal at a permitted landfill.

*For information regarding the availability of chippers in your area, contact Fenton Rood at (405) 702-5100.*

## **SITE SELECTION**

Local environmental specialists can assist you with finding a suitable staging area that complies with any state and federal environmental requirements. Staging areas can be located on publicly owned property or on private property. (A sample legal access agreement is included in the event that you choose to use private land for a staging area.) All sites used as staging areas must be registered with FEMA using the “Emergency Disposal Site Evaluation and Registry” form.

Additional Legal Access Agreement forms and Emergency Disposal Site Evaluation and Registry forms may be obtained at your local DEQ office:

**Miami DEQ Office**  
34 A. Street NE Rm. #300A  
Miami, Ok. 74355  
(918) 540-0150