



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

Advice on Disposing of Flood Debris And Emergency Removal of Debris from Streams

Here's how you can help make debris disposal faster and safer:

Avoid Mixing Wastes

While most flood debris typically contains household items, trees and brush and demolition-type waste from buildings, it can also contain harmful chemicals and other wastes that may have to be handled separately.

Debris should be visually inspected to exclude mixing tanks, barrels and other containers with harmful industrial chemicals and potentially hazardous wastes.

Household-type cleaners, home pesticides, paints and household chemicals can be safely disposed of in approved landfills and do not need to be separated from debris.

Open Burning

Open burning is an option for debris disposal; however, it may pose some local environmental problems. DEP will consider requests to burn debris on a case-by-case basis, but only with the approval of the local government.

If open burning is used, devices known as air curtain destroyers are recommended to provide for more complete combustion. Call the regional DEP office near you for specific advice.

Removal of Debris from Streams

Anyone planning to remove debris from streams should check in with DEP first. DEP can give approvals over the telephone for the emergency removal of debris blocking streams, especially where the

debris may cause water backups and the potential for more flooding. For larger debris areas or if you need advice on how to remove debris, DEP can quickly provide staff at your site to assist in determining the best way to remove debris (listed below).

Debris removal should be done as carefully as possible to avoid changing the stream channel or banks. A change to the channel or stream banks could cause more flooding problems in the future, especially for downstream neighbors, as well as environmental damage.

If stream dredging, stream bank or channel changes are proposed, emergency permit approval must be obtained from DEP.

Document Your Costs

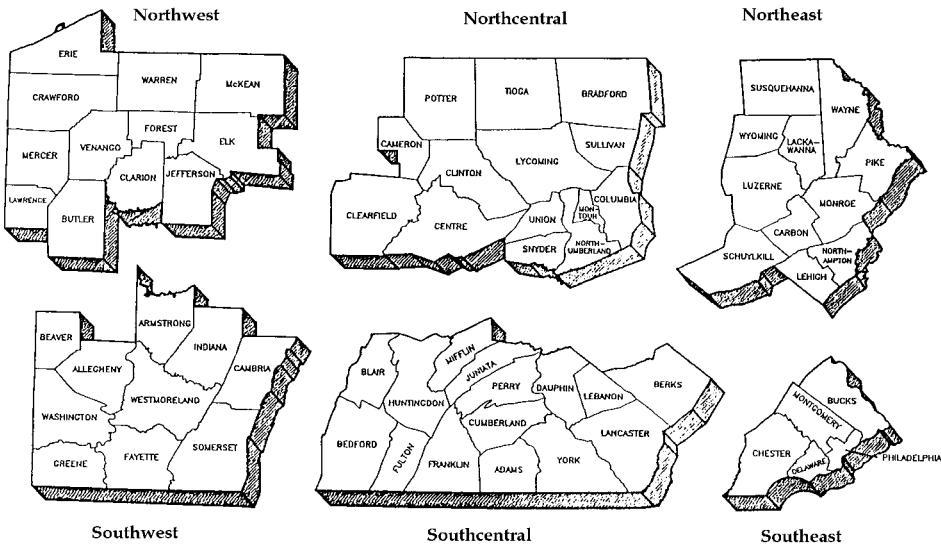
Local governments are reminded to document their costs for debris removal for later possible reimbursement by the federal government. Pictures of debris, equipment and labor costs can be kept to document removal costs. Questions about documentation should be directed to county emergency management officials and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Questions? Just Call...

For more information, visit DEP's website at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "DEP Flood Recovery."

For information about the handling and disposal of flood debris, contact your DEP Regional Office. (County names are listed for each regional office.)

DEP REGIONAL OFFICES



Northwest Regional Office

Meadville

814-332-6945

Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren

Southwest Regional Office

Pittsburgh

410-422-4000

Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland

Northcentral Regional Office

Williamsport

570-327-3636

Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union

**Southcentral
Office**
Harrisburg
717-705-4700

Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York

Regional

Northeast Regional Office

Wilkes-Barre

570-826-2511

Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming

Southeast Regional Office

Norristown

484-250-5900

Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia