

Recommendations on Disposal 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. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will approve requests to burn debris on a case-by-case basis in consultation with and under the supervision of the local government.

If open burning is used, devices known as air curtain destroyers are recommended, and maybe required in some instances, to reduce air pollution, and 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 streambanks could cause more flooding problems in the future, especially for downstream neighbors, as well as environmental damage.

If stream dredging, streambank or channel changes are proposed, emergency permit approval from DEP may be required. This is described in the Fact Sheet entitled "Permitting Options for Flood-Damaged Bridges and Other Water Obstructions and Encroachments."

Document Your Costs

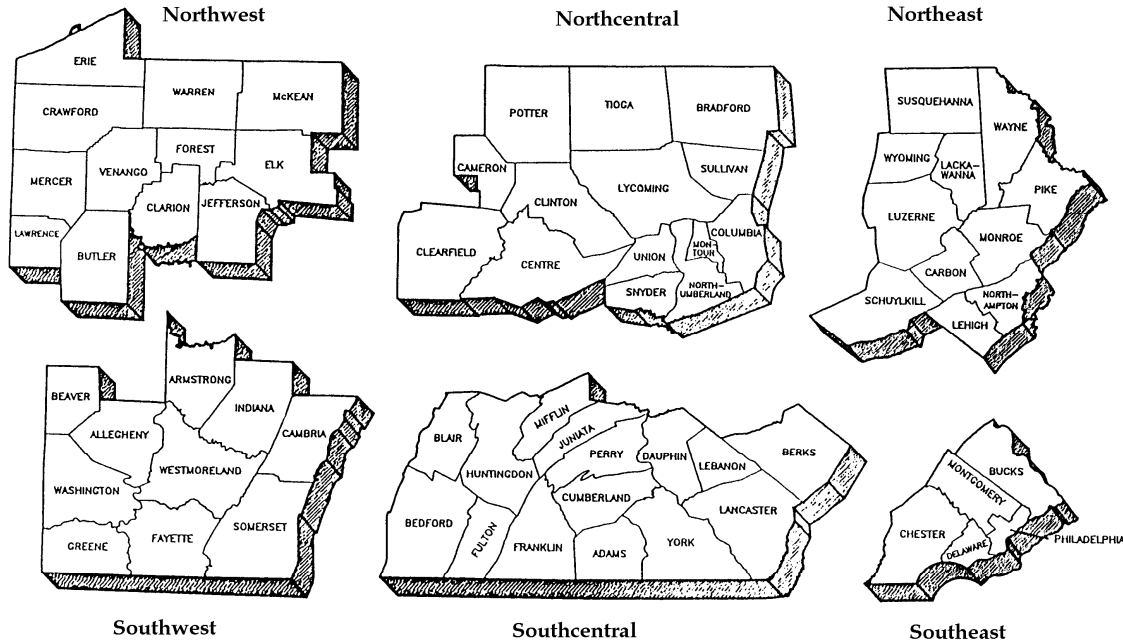
Local governments are reminded to document their costs for debris removal for later possible reimbursement by the federal government. Pictures of debris, equipment and labor costs can be kept to document removal costs. Questions about documentation should be directed to county emergency management officials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

Questions? Just Call...

For more information, visit DEP's website at www.depweb.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 Region

230 Chestnut St.
Meadville, PA 16335-3481
Main Telephone: 814-332-6945
24-Hour Emergency: 1-800-373-3398

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

Northcentral Region

208 W. Third St., Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701
Main Telephone: 570-327-3636
24-Hour Emergency: 570-327-3636

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

Northeast Region

2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915
Main Telephone: 570-826-2511
24-Hour Emergency: 570-826-2511

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

Southwest Region

400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Main Telephone: 412-442-4000
24-Hour Emergency: 412-442-4000

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

Southcentral Region

909 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Main Telephone: 717-705-4700
24-Hour Emergency: 1-877-333-1904

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

Southeast Region

2 E. Main St.
Norristown, PA 19401
Main Telephone: 484-250-5900
24-Hour Emergency: 484-250-5900

Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia