



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

06-213

May 2007

Guidance for Cleanup Following Tornadoes and Severe Storms

Clean-up after a tornado or storm event that has caused severe damage may be achieved by addressing this situation under the permit exception located in Title 132, Chapter 2, 002. When cleaning up after a situation such as this, the best approach is to assess the types of waste you are dealing with, and what the disposal procedures should be. They fall into four main categories and can be disposed of in the following ways:

- **Branches, trees and vegetative wastes** can be separated from the other debris and later can be sent to the community burn pile. These wastes can also be sent to a permitted disposal site.
- **Construction debris** – the structural materials from houses and buildings, such as concrete, boards, shingles, windows, siding, pipes, etc. – can be taken to the closest construction and demolition (C&D) landfill or a permitted municipal solid waste landfill. The waste may also be separated and used as “fill” as described in Title 132, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, 002. To determine the locations of nearby C&D landfills, contact the Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) at (402) 471-2186. This information is also available on the department website.
- **Other household wastes**, such as trash and furniture, should be sent to a permitted municipal landfill.
- **Hazardous wastes** – If you believe the waste contains regulated hazardous materials, more care and caution is needed. These wastes should be containerized, labeled, and ultimately sent to a facility that is permitted to store, treat or dispose of hazardous wastes. In these instances, it is important to contact the department to discuss proper disposal procedures. NDEQ can be reached at (402) 471-2186 during regular business hours, and at (402) 471-4545 after hours. Tracking would be required for these wastes. If it appears that there has been a spill involving potentially hazardous wastes, it is important to immediately contact NDEQ or other emergency response personnel on site and apprise them of the situation.

Each disposal situation has unique characteristics, and NDEQ is available to provide assistance and advice on these issues. If you have any questions, contact NDEQ at the numbers listed above.

Produced by: Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, NE 68509-8922; phone (402) 471-2186. To view this, and other information related to our agency, visit our web site at www.deq.state.ne.us.

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