

DATE: May 17, 2017

TO: Municipalities, businesses and property owners impacted by the May 16, 2017, tornado and storm event in Barron, Polk, and Rusk Counties. Other counties may have been impacted but details are not known at this time.

FROM: Jill Schoen, Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Demolition Debris Management, May 16, 2017, tornado and storm event

The purpose of this memo is to provide information, including local department contacts, regarding management of waste and debris generated from tornado and storm event that occurred on May 16, 2017. (Note: This information is a modified version of DNR publication WA601, developed specifically for this event.)

On May 16, 2017, a tornado and storm event impacted Polk, Barron and Rusk Counties in Wisconsin. Other counties to the east may have been impacted but details are not known at this time.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is concerned with public health, safety, and environmental impacts when demolition debris is mismanaged. This document provides resources to communities and businesses in managing storm-generated debris, and to individuals interested in razing a single structure.

Typical types of waste generated from both natural disasters and planned demolition activities, along with proper disposal methods, are listed below.

CLEAN: SOIL, BRICK, BUILDING STONE, CONCRETE, BROKEN ASPHALT PAVEMENT, WOOD WASTE FROM DOWNED TREES, AND UNPAINTED OR UNTREATED WOOD

These items may be disposed of *without Department approval* as long as the site selected does not impact surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and critical habitat areas. Contact waste staff for assistance on locating an appropriate disposal site. The term "clean" refers to material that is unpainted, untreated, and not contaminated with petroleum or other contaminants. Communities should consider composting or chipping smaller wood waste for use in landscapes damaged by the storm event or offering clean wood waste for use as firewood. Clean brick, building stone, concrete and asphalt may be stockpiled for crushing and reusing in future building projects.

ROOFING METALS, SIDING, AND OTHER METALS INCLUDING APPLIANCES

This material may be easily recycled and therefore should be stockpiled and hauled to a scrap metal recycler. Some appliances may contain hazardous substances such as Freon. Freon must be removed by qualified and licensed personnel and items containing Freon or other hazardous substances should be stockpiled separately from other metals.

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS - SIDING, FLOORING, ROOFING AND INSULATION

Structures that may contain asbestos items normally require special inspection and handling by **licensed** personnel and proper disposal. Contact Rick Wulk, DNR Air Management Supervisor, 920-662-5181 (desk), or 920-461-9387 (cell), for details on proper identification and handling of materials containing asbestos.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE FORM OF PAINTS, SOLVENTS, FUELS AND PESTICIDES

Many municipalities have collection programs capable of handling household hazardous wastes. If your community does not have a household hazardous waste program, arrangements can be made with an outside contractor to establish a household hazardous waste disposal drop-off and collection service. Contact Jayne Wade, Waste Management Specialist, 715-762-1342, with questions regarding proper management of hazardous waste and disposal of contaminated soil.

GLASS, ASPHALT AND FIBERGLASS ROOFING, CARPETING AND PAD, INSULATION, PVC PIPING, SIDING, DRYWALL, PLASTER AND PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

Items that cannot be recycled or reused *require disposal in a local licensed landfill, or an approved one-time disposal or construction and demolition landfill site.*

OPEN BURNING

It is illegal to burn painted, treated or unclean wood, asphalt, plastics of any kind, oily substances, tires and other rubber products, garbage, recyclables, wet rubbish, and other materials. Demolition materials that cannot be burned include: roofing materials, all kinds of flooring materials, insulation, plywood and other composition board, electrical wiring, cabinetry and countertops, and plastic plumbing.

Open burning of trees, wood, brush, and other clean wood waste is an option, but *requires prior DNR approval or concurrence*; however, this may not be the best option. Please contact Rick Wulk, DNR Air Management Supervisor, 920-662-5181 (desk) or 920-461-9387 (cell), to discuss options and request an approval. Open burning results in the release of contaminants to the air, water and land, and may have an adverse impact on human health and the environment. Also, a fire spreading out of control is always a serious concern and stretches needed emergency personnel even thinner. A wild fire resulting from open burning activities could cost you money, if the local fire department is called out to suppress the fire. Chipping, composting, and using clean wood waste for firewood should be the options considered first!

Department of Natural Resources Contacts:

Open Burning & Asbestos: Rick Wulk, 920-662-5181 (office), 920-461-9387 (cell)

Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling: Bob Germer, (715) 635-4060

Hazardous Waste Management: Jayne Wade, (715) 762-1342

Spills: Chris Saari at (715) 685-2920, or Phil Richard at (715) 762-1352

Additional debris management related information:



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<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/StormDebris.html>