



Understanding Your Waste Management Options After an Emergency

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Temporary Debris Management Sites

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Overview



Debris generated in a disaster

Managing debris from a disaster

Temporary Debris Management Site application and approval

TCEQ temporary debris management site inspections

Temporary debris management site closure

Debris Management from Declared Disasters

Large volumes of debris are generated following disasters such

- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires or explosions, and
- Severe weather



Debris may include

- Trees, brush, and other vegetative matter
- Burned, partially-burned construction or demolition waste
- Furnishings and appliances
- Putrescible waste and animal carcasses
- Infectious waste
- Household hazardous waste
- Hazardous waste
- Vehicles and vessels
- Sediments (soil, mud, sand)



Disaster Declarations

- Declared by the governor or the president.
- Declaration will be county specific
- Enables counties to receive financial and technical assistance

tdem.texas.gov/disasters

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that severe storms and tornadoes pose a threat of imminent disaster, including widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life, due to damaging winds, tornadoes, heavy rainfall, and flash flooding in Harris and Orange Counties;

Getting Started

TCEQ RG-518 - Managing Debris from Declared Disasters

Emergency Response:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response>

TCEQ-20660 -
Temporary Debris-
Management Site
Application



TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE

Critical Infrastructure Division

RG-518 • Revised May 2024

Managing Debris from Declared Disasters

Disposing of Debris

Large volumes of debris are generated following natural or human-made disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornados, wildfires or explosions, etc. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has developed the following guidance for managing and disposing of debris associated with the cleanup of areas affected by disasters.

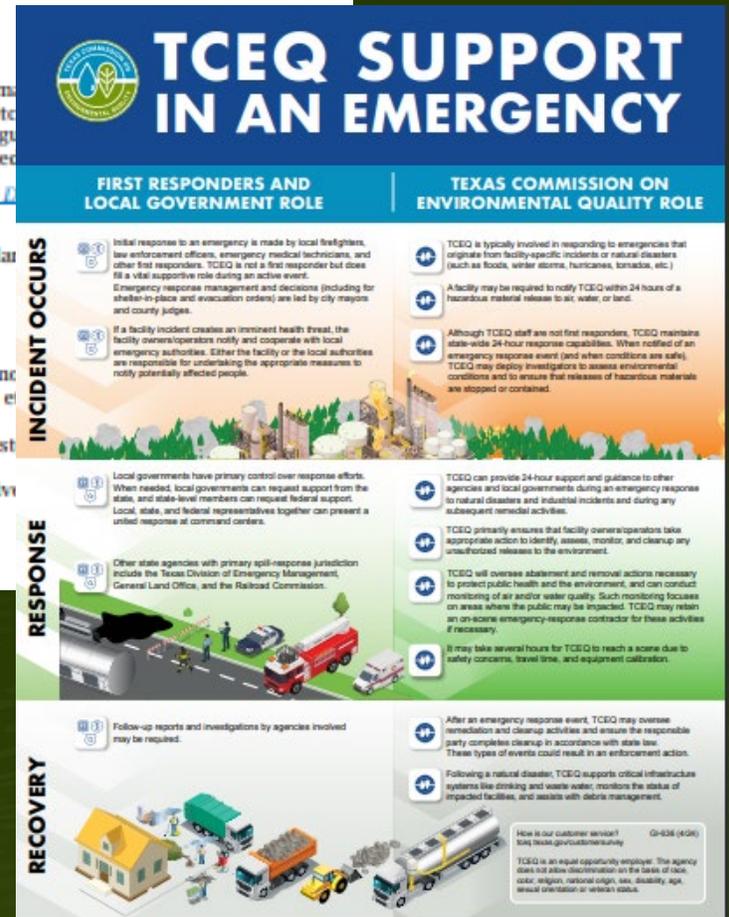
If the debris was the result of a wildfire, see [TCEQ's Managing Wildfires webpage](#) for additional information.¹

During cleanup and recovery efforts following a severe event, large volumes of debris of various types will need to be disposed of.

Debris may include:

- Trees, brush, and other vegetative matter.
- Burned, partially-burned or whole construction or demolition materials, including drywall, lumber, roof shingles, treated wood, plastics, etc.
- Furnishings and appliances.
- Other municipal solid waste, including putrescible waste (e.g., food waste, foul odors as it decomposes) and animal carcasses.
- Hazardous waste, such as cleaning supplies, automotive fluids, and solvents, etc.

Applicability



TCEQ SUPPORT IN AN EMERGENCY

FIRST RESPONDERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE	TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ROLE
INCIDENT OCCURS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial response to an emergency is made by local firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders. TCEQ is not a first responder but does fill a vital supportive role during an active event. Emergency response management and decisions (including for shelter-in-place and evacuation orders) are led by city mayors and county judges.If a facility incident creates an imminent health threat, the facility owners/operators notify and cooperate with local emergency authorities. Either the facility or the local authorities are responsible for undertaking the appropriate measures to notify potentially affected people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TCEQ is typically involved in responding to emergencies that originate from facility-specific incidents or natural disasters (such as floods, winter storms, hurricanes, tornados, etc.)A facility may be required to notify TCEQ within 24 hours of a hazardous material release to air, water, or land.Although TCEQ staff are not first responders, TCEQ maintains state-wide 24-hour response capabilities. When notified of an emergency response event (and when conditions are safe), TCEQ may deploy investigators to assess environmental conditions and to ensure that releases of hazardous materials are stopped or contained.
RESPONSE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local governments have primary control over response efforts. When needed, local governments can request support from the state, and state-level members can request federal support. Local, state, and federal representatives together can present a unified response at command centers.Other state agencies with primary spill-response jurisdiction include the Texas Division of Emergency Management, General Land Office, and the Railroad Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TCEQ can provide 24-hour support and guidance to other agencies and local governments during an emergency response to natural disasters and industrial incidents and during any subsequent remedial activities.TCEQ primarily ensures that facility owners/operators take appropriate action to identify, assess, monitor, and cleanup any unauthorized releases to the environment.TCEQ will oversee abatement and removal actions necessary to protect public health and the environment, and can conduct monitoring of air and/or water quality. Such monitoring focuses on areas where the public may be impacted. TCEQ may retain an on-scene emergency-response contractor for these activities if necessary.It may take several hours for TCEQ to reach a scene due to safety concerns, travel time, and equipment calibration.
RECOVERY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow-up reports and investigations by agencies involved may be required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">After an emergency response event, TCEQ may oversee remediation and cleanup activities and ensure the responsible party completes cleanup in accordance with state law. These types of events could result in an enforcement action.Following a natural disaster, TCEQ supports critical infrastructure systems like drinking and waste water; monitors the status of impacted facilities, and assists with debris management. <p>How is our customer service? 60-634 (4/20) TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status.</p>

Site Information

- Be located above the 100-year floodplain or have authorization from the local floodplain administrator
 - [FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Search By Address](#)
- Must be located outside any known wetland
 - [National Wetlands Inventory](#)
- Must be located ¼ mile from a water supply system
 - [Groundwater Data Viewer | Texas Water Development Board](#)
 - [Surface Water Quality Viewer](#)
- Ensure no unauthorized disposal
 - 24-hour access control (fencing, locked gates, signs, etc.)

Staging/Stockpiling Sites

- Separate and sort out white good, construction and demolition debris, vegetative waste for proper disposal
- Batteries, used oil & used oil filters, tires, bulk liquids, PCB waste, or industrial hazardous waste should **not** be sent to a municipal solid waste landfill for disposal.

Vegetative Debris Chipping and Mulching Sites

- Chipper/grinder machine should be operated 50 feet from the nearest property line
- Fire suppression measures are coordinated with the local fire marshal

Burning Sites

- TCEQ authorization must be received
- Agreements with local fire marshal and county judge to ensure no burn ban in place
- Must comply with Outdoor Burning rules and regulates found in 30 TAC §111
- Debris generated must be disposed in a TCEQ authorized landfill, used for beneficial reuse, or buried in the trench at the time of burning given the waste is deed recorded
- Open burn or Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI)

Application Issues

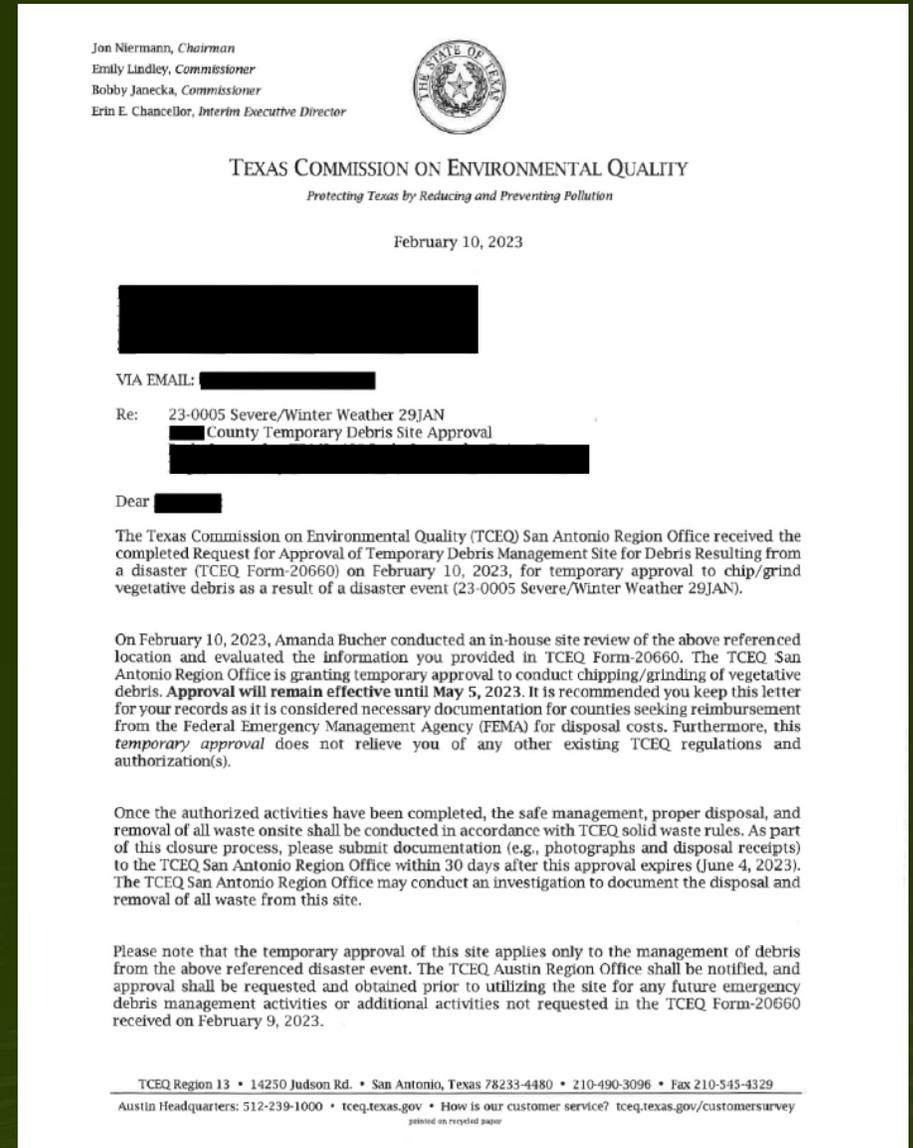
- Site located at a landfill or within a prohibited area
- Site does not meet the property set-back requirements for mulching and/or burning
- Lack of estimated debris volume
- Burning will occur near sensitive receptors
- Inadequate plan for disposal of debris or recycling of material
- Missing information on the application

TCEQ Assistance

- It is recommended for local governments to pre-identify potential sites in case of disaster
- TCEQ can review a pre-identified site and determine if the site meets requirements
- TCEQ can create and setback maps for proposed locations
- Discuss disposal and recycling options in your area

TDMS Application Approval

- Approval letter will be transmitted to the requesting entity and County Judge
- Approval is for 90 days from declared disaster date
- Extension requests may be approved at the discretion of the Regional Office based on updated site activities
- Site inspection may be conducted
- FEMA will not reimburse expenses incurred unless the site is approved by TCEQ



Waste Segregation Example 1



Waste Segregation Example 2



Vegetative Debris Sites

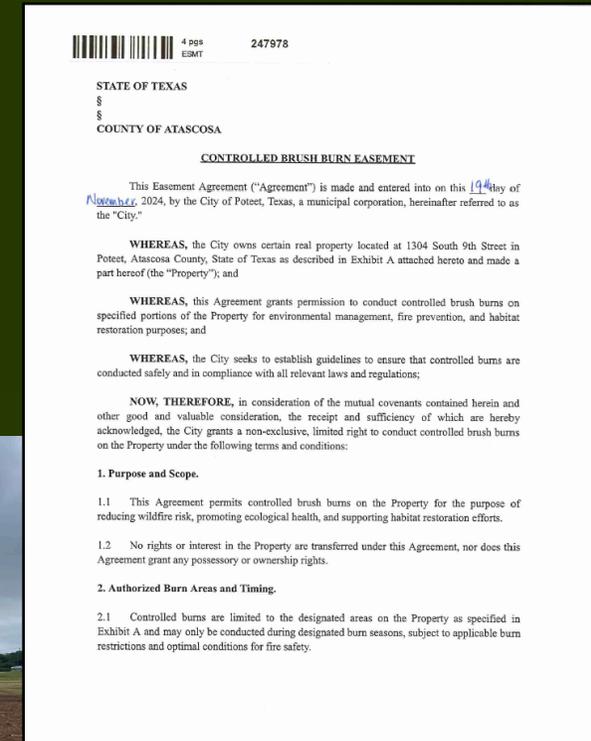


Burn Site



Closure Inspection

- Confirm Operation are complete
- Verify removal of debris
- Request disposal documentation
 - Deed recordation for burial
 - Beneficial use records
 - Landfill manifests



Closure Issues

- Lack of disposal documentation
- Lack of deed recordation
- Lack of beneficial use documentation

****Note****

If material is stored for longer than the approved period, it may be considered solid waste and the site may be subject to permitting requirements and 30 TAC §330 rules. Additionally, any deviation from the approval (without prior authorization) can lead to possible regulatory actions.

Guidance

- Public Assistance Grant Program
<https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-policy-and-guidance>
- Debris Management Guide
<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/demagde.pdf>
- Incinerators
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/guidance/newsourcereview/incinerators>
- TCEQ's webpage for recycling resources
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/recycle>
- TDEM's webpage for disasters
<https://tdem.texas.gov/disasters>
- TCEQ RG-049 - *Outdoor Burning in Texas*
- TCEQ RG-591 - *Disposing of Animal Carcasses Left Behind by a Declared Disaster*

Point of Contacts

TCEQ Critical Infrastructure Division

TCEQ Regional Office

Texas Division on Emergency Management

Local Emergency Management Offices

County and City Officials



TDEM
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Emergency Temporary Authorizations

Adam Schnuriger

What is an Emergency Temporary Authorization (ETA)?

- Authorization to temporarily change activities due to natural or man-made disaster.
 - Hurricanes
 - Wildfires
 - Tornadoes
 - Flooding
 - Facility-specific emergency



Why Does a Facility Need an ETA?



- Disasters that disrupt certain facility operations from continuing:
 - Limited access
 - Damaged buildings or equipment
 - Increase in storm debris waste

How Long is an ETA Valid?



- Typically – 30-60 days
- Request should include the amount of time needed.
- Maximum time – 180 days
- One extension up to 180 more days may be approved.
- Update TCEQ on progress every 30 days.

Common Requests from Landfills

- Extending operating hours
- Extending waste acceptance hours
- Suspending cover inspections
- Suspending timeframes for repair of erosion



Common Requests from Processing Facilities



- Suspending average and maximum waste storage volumes
- Suspending average and maximum waste processing times.
- Storing waste in the buffer zone (not including easements and rights of way).

What is Not Covered by an ETA?

- Suspending:
- Requirements that decrease protectiveness of human health and the environment.
- Safety requirements, ex. fire plan
- Vector and odor control management
 - Include alternative mitigation measures in the ETA request.



How to Submit an ETA

- Submit to TCEQ – MSW Permits Section.
- No form required (TCEQ Form-20650 is not used for ETAs.)
- No fees required.
- An ETA request can be done via:
 - Letter
 - Email
 - Phone



Information Required for an ETA



- Requirements that you are seeking to suspend.
- Justification for the suspension.
- Timeframe for the ETA.

Example of an ETA Request

- Suspension of operating and waste acceptance hours.
- Suspension of maximum amount of waste received daily.
- Request to establish a temporary debris management site (denied).

Due to the damage and impact of Hurricane Beryl in the greater _____ Area we anticipate increased MSW and C&D waste as a result from the cleanup. We are requesting temporary authorization for 90 days at the following facilities:

- MSW Permit

-Current hours for receiving waste 6:00am – 8:00pm – We are requesting to increase this to 24/7

-Current waste acceptance rate is a maximum of 4500 cubic yards per day – We are requesting to remove the maximum waste acceptance cap.

-We are requesting to establish a temporary debris management site on at _____ property. Until further guidance is issued by TCEQ, the facility will utilize the temporary debris management site to facilitate the recovery and re-development process necessitated by Hurricane Beryl. The facility will utilize the temporary debris site to segregate hurricane debris from immediately being placed at the permitted, active face.

Can I Cancel My ETA?



Examples of Recent Disasters

Covid-19 (2020)

Hurricane Laura (2020)

Polar Vortex (2021)

Matador Tornado (2023)

Smokehouse Creek Fire (2024)

Hurricane Beryl (2024)



Examples of ETAs From Recent Disasters



Covid-19:

- Increase in overnight waste storage at transfer station.

Polar Vortex:

- Maintaining leachate levels on the liner below 12 inches.

Hurricane Beryl:

- Operating 24/7, and extended waste acceptance hours.

Questions?

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