

# QUICK REFERENCE: Disaster Debris

## Disaster Debris Sites: What, Why, and How

### What is Disaster Debris?

Waste generated during a disaster event may include construction and demolition materials (C&D), vegetation, metals, household hazardous wastes (HHW), white goods, electronics, inerts (concrete, asphalt, sediment), and/or animal mortality.

### General debris management:

During routine management of these waste streams, material is transported and/or processed through existing permitted solid waste facilities (transfer stations, landfills, treatment & processing grinding yards, etc.). Generators are required to insure that the material is managed at a facility permitted to receive that particular waste stream.

**During emergency events:** Hurricanes, Floods, Landslides, Ice Storms, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Fires, etc.

During an emergency event debris must be transported to existing permitted/approved facilities for the specific waste type, **or to approved temporary disaster debris sites**. The debris that can be received at an approved temporary debris site is limited to only disaster generated debris.

**Unacceptable at Temporary Disaster Debris Sites:** Unless otherwise approved— white goods and electronics, household hazardous wastes (paint, cleaners, herbicides, pesticides, oil, antifreeze, etc.).



**Costs associated with disaster debris wastes not managed at permitted facilities or approved debris sites may not be eligible for reimbursement for declared events.**

During a declared emergency event (a disaster that qualifies for reimbursement funds) debris must be transported to existing permitted facilities or to approved temporary disaster debris sites in order to assist with eligibility for FEMA reimbursement. The disaster debris site approval process is administered by NCDEQ Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section. Sites receive “conditional approval” from the Section for the emergency management of specific waste streams (C&D or vegetative waste only).



### CONTACT US

For additional information:

N.C. Div. of Waste Management  
Solid Waste Section  
1646 Mail Service Center  
217 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1646  
Phone: 919-707-8200

You may also contact your local Regional Office at:

Asheville: 828-296-4500  
Fayetteville: 910-433-3300  
Mooresville: 704-663-1699  
Washington: 252-946-6481  
Wilmington: 910-796-7215  
Winston-Salem: 336-776-9800

*This document provides basic guidance about acceptable and unacceptable waste management practices. It does not replace, change, augment, or substitute for any requirements contained in the N.C. General Statutes, the Administrative Code or local government requirements.*

## SITE APPROVAL PROCESS:

### Siting Requirements:

Siting requirements based on waste type and management option:

100-feet from: surface waters/waters of the State, property boundaries, buildings and structures, septic systems, vegetative waste to potable water supply wells.

250-feet from: demolition waste to potable water supply wells

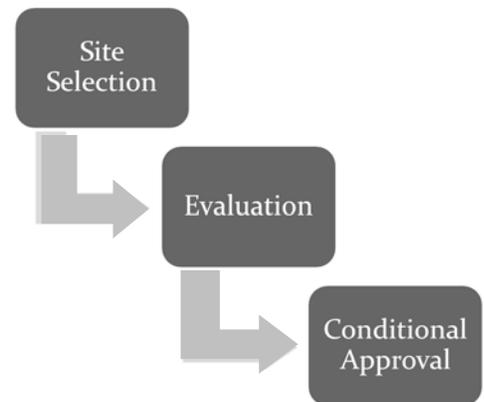
300-feet from: tub grinders to structures or locations where property damage and/or personal injury could occur due to airborne debris, vibration, etc. This distance may be reduced under consultation with the Section.

Avoid flood-prone areas.

### Site Evaluation:

The Emergency Site Selection Evaluation Sheet is submitted to your regional Environmental Sr. Specialist (ESS) with the Solid Waste Section to initiate an on-site site evaluation. The ESS will arrange to visit the site to further evaluate the siting criteria, location, access, safety concerns, etc. The site must then pass review by Natural Heritage Program (NHP) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This process can take several weeks and is one reason why the Solid Waste Section encourages advance planning and approval of these temporary disaster debris sites.

*<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw/dds> "waste staging/storage area site evaluation sheet"*



### Conditional Approval & Site Activation:

All temporary disaster debris sites require activation with the Section prior to waste acceptance. The applicant will receive a written notice of "conditional approval" which outlines the process by which the site can be activated for a six month period following an emergency event. If site specifics change, such as localized development or environmental conditions, the activation of the site could potentially be denied. It is recommended that a periodic review of the site be conducted to ensure that the area continues to meet the conditional approval. Unless otherwise approved, at the end of the six-month activation period all waste must be removed from the site.

### DEFINITIONS:

**"Construction & Demolition Waste"** (C&D) Solid waste from construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of buildings, or other structures. Examples include, but are not limited to, insulation, plywood, particle board, treated and painted wood, shingles, wire, and sheet rock.

**Vegetative Waste:** Typically includes material similar to "Land Clearing Waste" or yard wastes. Stumps, trees, limbs, brush and other naturally occurring vegetation.

**"Inert Debris"** Unpainted concrete, brick, concrete block, uncontaminated soil, rock, and gravel.

**"Electronics"** Computers, monitors, televisions, printers, etc.

**"White Goods"** Refrigerators, ranges, water heaters, freezers, ac units, washing machines, dryers, etc.