



## **Storm Event Preparedness and Response Fact Sheet for Municipalities**

### **Emergency Authorizations for Managing Storm Generated Debris**

► ***Where can a municipality stage collected storm generated debris, i.e. downed trees and other vegetative debris, flood damaged household items, other?***

- Municipalities may use **permitted transfer stations** for staging storm generated debris. It could be expected that most of the volume would consist of downed trees and other vegetative debris. However, catastrophic storm events may require the municipality to manage a broader storm generated waste stream over a longer period of time.

Municipalities should review their existing Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) issued solid waste management permits to determine if the storm generated debris can be processed under the conditions of the permit. If this is the case, then no further authorization is needed. If not authorized, request an **Emergency Authorization** from CT DEEP.

- If a transfer station is not available, then municipalities may use flat areas at their **closed landfills** (i.e., access roads, staging areas, toe of slope, etc.). Request an **Emergency Authorization** from CT DEEP.
- If neither a transfer station nor a closed landfill is available or sufficient, then **other municipal properties** may be considered. Consult with CT DEEP for suitability criteria and request an **Emergency Authorization** from CT DEEP.
- Here are some key suitability considerations for a Debris Management Site (DMS):
  - Paved sites are best. Semi-paved or large parking lots paved in stone dust or gravel is the next best option.
  - Use paved areas away from drainage and wetland areas.
  - Things to look for: good ingress/egress; open flat topography.
  - Things to avoid: wetlands; drainage pathways; sensitive surrounding land use [schools, nursing homes, hospitals, residential].

► ***How does a municipality obtain an Emergency Authorization to establish a DMS storm generated debris?***

- **Contact CT DEEP:** Robert Isner, Director or Gabrielle Frigon, Permitting Supervisor at 860-424-3023 or [robert.isner@ct.gov](mailto:robert.isner@ct.gov) or [gabrielle.frigon@ct.gov](mailto:gabrielle.frigon@ct.gov)
- **If property is suitable, CTDEEP will issue an *Emergency Authorization* for a DMS whether at transfer stations, closed landfills, or other municipally-owned property. An *Emergency Authorization* is used to address the imminent and/or immediate danger to**

the public health, safety and welfare of Connecticut citizens in response to storm related destruction. This authorization allows municipalities/towns to establish and operate a DMS within the State's regulatory framework. An **Emergency Authorization** permits the staging of storm related debris for a specified period of time. Such an authorization can be extended based on need.

- For woody debris, if any signs of pest infestation are observed prior to loading debris for removal to a DMS, but it is safe to leave the wood where it is, then do so and follow the reporting instructions below. The **Emergency Authorization** will require municipalities to visually assess downed trees for evidence of **pest infestation**, including but not limited to **Asian Longhorn Beetle** and **Emerald Ash Borer** if such assessment has not already occurred prior to moving the wood. The **Emergency Authorization** includes special requirements for the isolation of pest infested wood. To become familiar with the signs indicating Asian Longhorn Beetle infestation, see CT DEEP webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/forestry> and click on Asian Longhorn beetle and for Emerald Ash Borer infestation, see CT DEEP webpage: [http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=464598&deepNav\\_GID=1631](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=464598&deepNav_GID=1631).

If you observe signs of infestation take a photo if you can and make careful note of the location, then report your finding to the [Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station](#). The direct line to the Deputy State Entomologist is 203-974-8474. The e-mail address to use to contact the Station by email or to send digital photos of suspected infestation indicators is [CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov](mailto:CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov).

- Be advised that an Emergency Authorization will be granted to manage only storm generated waste. The DMS shall therefore be set up only to handle such waste. Any waste generated previous to the storm event should not be managed at the DMS. **Any deviation from this practice may impair the community's ability to recover FEMA clean-up costs after a federally declared disaster.**

► **What storm generated debris can be staged as part of this *Emergency Authorization*?**

- It covers downed trees and other vegetative debris, and other types of storm generated debris such as white goods, construction and demolition debris, treated wood, shingles, flood damaged items such as carpets, mattresses and other household furnishings, and spoiled foods.

**Note: This fact sheet is for Municipal Governments.** Town Officials should be prepared to respond to their residents' requests for information on managing debris generated from residential property. As a start, see CT DEEP's fact sheet: *Fact Sheet for Municipalities and Residents: Storm Event Preparedness and Response: Solid Waste Management - Household Garbage; Storm Debris.*

For any questions about an Emergency Authorization contact CT DEEP: Robert Isner, Director or Gabrielle Frigon Permitting Supervisor at 860-424-3023 or [robert.isner@ct.gov](mailto:robert.isner@ct.gov) or [gabrielle.frigon@ct.gov](mailto:gabrielle.frigon@ct.gov).