



# Disaster Debris Policy

---

In the event that a Federal Declaration of Disaster is issued for the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery) stands ready to assist our customers in managing any debris expected to be generated. **If there is no declared state of emergency or disaster declaration, all material acceptance will occur as usual under the same terms, conditions, and waste codes for solid waste and recycling tipping.**

This memo will address FEMA/RIEMA expectations, the disaster debris waste codes, municipal cap concerns, and extended disposal hours, if any, should a Federal Declaration of Disaster be declared.

## FEMA/RIEMA EXPECTATIONS

Resource Recovery will make all efforts to be in full operation at our facility located at 65 Shun Pike, Johnston and will attempt to maintain full access to unloading and disposal areas for our customers, unless otherwise directed by the Governor.

As each community activates their disaster debris management plans, they should communicate with their residents the need to keep disaster debris separate from routine household generated solid waste. Much of the debris generated from storm events may be recyclable and Resource Recovery reminds everyone that the best recycling is done at the point of generation. To the extent possible, proactive measures should be disseminated to the public outlining Best Management Practices to keep materials segregated when being placed at the curbside. According to FEMA reimbursement policies, materials should be separated into the following types of piles:

- Putrescent municipal solid waste (e.g. rotting food waste)
- Scrap metal and white goods (washers, dryers, hot water heaters, etc.)
- Demolition waste – wood, floor tiles, carpet, etc.
- Household Hazardous Waste – such as pesticides, fertilizers, batteries, paint, cleaning agents, and other chemicals. If a substance cannot be identified, it should be assumed to be HHW.
- Leaf and Yard waste – leaves, plants, twigs, branches smaller than 2” in diameter
- Green waste – trees, limbs, shrubs (clean wood is not considered green waste or leaf and yard waste)

As the above separated disaster debris arrives at Resource Recovery, it must be self-identified by the municipality or the contracted vendor on behalf of the municipality as disaster debris, it will be weighed in under a disaster debris waste code (see Item 2), and directed to the appropriate receiving area for processing. Mixed waste will be sent to the landfill for disposal. During debris operations, Resource Recovery will maintain

normal rules, operational practices, and acceptance criteria. Therefore, please assist us in making sure only non-regulated, non-hazardous materials are brought to Resource Recovery.

## **DISASTER DEBRIS WASTE CODES**

In order to properly track the debris removal costs for FEMA reimbursement records Resource Recovery has implemented two Disaster Debris waste codes: 1) a Disaster Debris code for material to be disposed and 2) a Green Debris waste code for Green waste as outlined above. The loads must be segregated as outlined above, disaster debris or green debris only and the customer/hauler must identify the load as disaster debris or green debris when scaling in. All material will be accepted under the customers current contract terms and conditions. Material tipped under the codes will have the standard charges apply, with Green Waste charged at the current municipal solid waste disposal rate. These separate waste codes will facilitate your FEMA reimbursement process. FEMA certified loads may be eligible for reimbursement up to a 75/25 split (meaning 75% of your storm related costs may be reimbursable), with the final determination to be made by FEMA. Resource Recovery does not guarantee any reimbursement of these costs, and it should not be assumed that classification of loads under Disaster Debris codes will be the only documentation needed by FEMA. The Disaster Debris waste codes are intended for municipal waste only, not commercial, institutional, or “drive up” customers.

## **MUNICIPAL CAP**

Loads tipped under the Disaster Debris waste codes will not count against the municipal solid waste tonnage cap, nor will these codes impact the recycling rate for respective cities/towns. Because much of the debris may be recyclable, it is imperative that you communicate to your residents that segregation as outlined above in Item 1 is critical, so that your municipality does not potentially lose recyclables to storm debris. Disaster debris cap exclusion will be in effect for a limited time to be decided by Resource Recovery, after the storm event. Any cap exclusions beyond the effective date will be handled on a case by case basis.

## **EXTENDED DISPOSAL HOURS**

Resource Recovery does not normally extend disposal hours, however this is subject to change. Municipalities will be given at least 24 hours’ notice of any change to disposal hours.

Please contact the Scalehouse and Customer service Manager at (401) 942-1430 ext. 102 or the Director of Landfill Operations and Engineering, at ext. 140, with any questions.