

Storm Recovery: Emergency Solid Waste Disposal Authorizations

Normally, solid waste goes to an authorized disposal area while yard waste goes to an authorized composting facility. However, in emergencies there are provisions for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to approve requests for emergency solid waste disposal for communities recovering from a storm in an emergency situation.

The solid waste regulations allow EGLE to approve the emergency disposal of waste material:

- At a disposal area that is an authorized solid waste disposal area, but in a manner not specifically authorized under the county's approved Solid Waste or Materials Management Plan.
- In a manner that is not in accordance with the solid waste regulations.

EGLE's approval, if granted, must:

- Be oral or written, and, if oral, followed by written approval within 5 days.
- Be for 90 days or less.
- Clearly specify the type and quantity of material and the manner and location of its disposal.

Approvals are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by EGLE's Materials Management Division (MMD).

Requesting an Emergency Solid Waste Disposal Authorization

A request resulting from an emergency declaration from the Governor or that results in activation of the State Emergency Operations Center must be submitted by the [Local Emergency Management Coordinator](#) using the [Michigan Critical Incident Management System \(MI CIMS\)](#). Once submitted using MI CIMS, the request is automatically routed to the [State Emergency Operations Center](#), which coordinates with EGLE, MMD.

A request resulting from an event that **did not** result in an emergency declaration from the Governor and the State Emergency Management Center is not activated may be initiated by county and municipal staff, solid waste disposal vendors supporting county and municipal operations, or both, depending on the circumstances. A request associated with an emergency that is not declared an emergency by the Governor must be submitted to either EGLE, MMD, [Solid Waste Section staff](#), or to the appropriate [EGLE MMD Solid Waste District Office staff](#), or both.

STORM DEBRIS PLANNING TOOL

EGLE encourages local planners and emergency responders to coordinate with local solid waste, compost, and recycling vendors, and use the [Storm Debris Planning Tool](#) available at Michigan.gov/EGLEStormRecovery to assemble the information needed to submit a request for emergency solid waste disposal authorization.

SUBMITTING AN OFFICIAL EMERGENCY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

To submit an official request for an emergency solid waste disposal authorization, complete the [Storm Debris Planning Tool](#) and submit the e-mail generated using the planning tool along with the site map to:

- [MI CIMS](#) for an emergency declared by the Governor and or that results in activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, and
- **EGLE MMD Solid Waste Section** staff at EGLE-MMD-SW@Michigan.gov and/or to the appropriate [EGLE MMD Solid Waste District Office](#) staff for events that are **not** declared an emergency by the Governor.

Use the [Storm Debris Planning Tool](#) for each site location needing emergency authorization. Once the form is submitted, it automatically sends an e-mail to the site contact and person completing the form, if different than the site contact. The following information is required for completing the form:

- **Emergency Event Information**
 - Natural disaster event information (location, date, etc.)
 - Site contact information
- **Emergency Authorization Request Information For New Disposal Area**
 - Disposal area location information, including site map
 - Duration or timeframe for site use, not to exceed 90 days
 - Type of materials to be handled
 - Volume/amount of material to be handled
 - How site access will be secured to prevent illegal dumping, vandalism, etc.
 - Site staffing information
 - Property owner information, with public ownership being preferred for an expedited review
 - Distance from the site to the closest residential area
 - Distance from the site to the closest body of water
 - Distance from the site to the closest water well
 - Distance from the site to the closest environmentally sensitive area
 - Pavement conditions at the site, with paved surfaces being required for approval for accumulation of non-vegetative material
 - Details on where stormwater run-off is directed
 - Details on how storm water run-off will be evaluated while the site is in operation
 - Road conditions for site access

- **Emergency Collection Information**
 - Operational measures to be used to prevent curbside scavenging
 - Standard hours of operation and proposed hours of operation for collection activities
- **Emergency Authorization Request Information For Existing Authorized Disposal Area**
 - Authorized disposal area location information, including site map
 - Duration or timeframe for site use, not to exceed 90 days
 - Relief requested (change in operating hours, change in materials handled, expanded footprint for operations, waste on the ground, contrary to county plan, extended storage time, increase in waste materials handled, etc.)
 - Type of materials to be handled
 - Volume/amount of material to be handled
 - How site access will be secured to prevent illegal dumping, vandalism, etc.
 - Site staffing information

Additional details on material handling that does not require emergency authorization are found in the [Storm Recovery: Managing Storm Debris Webpage](#). For questions about emergency disposal authorizations, contact the MMD, Solid Waste Section, at 517-899-5594 or [District Office, Solid Waste Program](#) staff.

Finding Additional Resources

EGLE is committed to helping communities respond to storm emergencies. Find what is available through EGLE at [Michigan.gov/EGLEStormRecovery](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLEStormRecovery) which provides access to the following resources.

[Solid Waste Law and Rules](#)

[Michigan Guide to Environmental Regulations](#)

[Managing Storm Debris Guidance](#)

[Michigan State Police \(MSP\) MIREADY Resources](#) for residents

[MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Resources](#) for public officials

[MSP Disaster Declaration Process Video](#)

[MSP Local Disaster Debris Management Planning Handbook](#)

[MSP Introduction to Debris Management - Three Things You Should Know](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(U.S. EPA\) All Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool \(AHWMPT\)](#)

[U.S. EPA Disaster Debris Recovery Tool](#)

[U.S. EPA Planning for Natural Disaster Debris](#)

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

To request this material in an alternate format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or 800-662-9278.