

Hurricane Gustav Guidance Document for Local Government Household Hazardous Materials and Special Waste Sites

The following information is intended to assist operators of solid waste facilities, recycling centers, scrap metal dealers, local governments, approved Emergency Debris Management Site operators and contractors in handling debris from the Emergency Areas. Every effort should be made to minimize the disposal of reusable and recyclable material in landfills. See DEQ's Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)

Hazardous waste is waste that can catch fire, react, explode, is corrosive or toxic. Most HHM produced by residential consumers is in small quantities, so those wastes have been exempted from regulation as a hazardous waste by EPA and the State of Louisiana. To be defined as "household" waste and thus considered exempt from federal/state hazardous waste regulations, the waste must be generated by individuals on the premises of a residence for individuals (a household) and composed primarily of materials found in the wastes generated from homes. Wastes generated by commercial or industrial establishments that appear to be the same as household waste are not exempt from state/federal hazardous waste regulations.

The Department strongly recommends that sponsors of HHW collection programs manage the collected waste as a Subtitle C hazardous waste, that is, it shall be managed at a facility or site following the hazardous waste guidelines. Given the effort and expense put into a HHW collection program, it makes sense to ensure the greater level of personal safety and environmental protection that will result from the more stringent controls. Precautions must be taken at these sites to prevent the release of materials into the environment. Such precautions include, providing lined temporary storage areas for accumulation of the material, segregation of the various streams, using trained personnel, obtaining spill kits and providing personal protective equipment.

HHM staged at a permitted solid waste facility or approved Emergency Debris Management Site for scrapping/recycling shall be staged away from other solid wastes by category, appliances, CRTs, LPG, etc.

Appliances

Local governments should set up drop-off collection sites for citizens for large appliances (white goods). It is recommended that local governments contract with a metals/or scrap appliance dealers to come and collect white goods for recycling, as white good may not be landfilled. Mercury switches must be removed from appliances by the contractor. Mercury containing devices are easily handled. More detailed information on mercury devices in appliances is available from LDEQ's web site at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/287/Default.aspx>

Small Engines

Small engines may be sent to a scrap metal processor. Efforts should be made to be made to remove oil and fuel.

Electronic Goods

In order to contribute to increased recycling and to reduce the volume of waste disposed in landfills, electronic waste (electronic goods or e-goods) should be recovered. It is recommended that local governments contract with an electronics recycler to come and collect electronics for recycling and dismantling.

Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) shall be sent for reuse and/or recycled. See the LDEQ regulations at LAC 33:V: 4911, 4913, and 4915. (Conditional Exclusion for Used, Broken Cathode Ray Tubes Undergoing Recycling, Conditional Exclusion for Used, Intact Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) Exported for Recycling, Notification and Recordkeeping for Used, Intact Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) Exported for Reuse)

LPG Tanks

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks typically contain propane gas. Propane is a flammable gas that is sometimes generically referred to as LP-Gas or, LPG. LPG has the potential to create a fire or a massive explosion. It is recommended that local governments contract with a local LPG dealer to will handle the inspection, pickup, recycling and redistribution of functional LPG and other flammable gas containers. There should be no deliberate release of any compressed gas container by personnel involved in the collection,

transportation and temporary storage of any gas container as a part of the debris collection efforts. De-pressurized gas containers may still contain explosive gas mixtures. A close working relationship should be established with scrap metal processing facilities dealing with containers destined for scrap metal reclamation.

Fluorescent lamps

Fluorescent lamps are a Universal Waste and may be recycled using the state contract for fluorescent lamps. See: <https://ecat.doa.louisiana.gov/ecat/external/externalContractDetail.sdo?docId=407269>

Pesticides

Residentially generated pesticides should be handled as solid waste. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Waste Pesticide Program at (225) 925-6914 be contacted for pesticide questions or problems.

Munitions and Ordnance

Munitions or ordnance associated with the aftermath of a disaster that remain unexploded either by malfunction, design, or any other cause, should be handled by a law enforcement trained technician in chemical or conventional munitions or explosives handling, transportation, render-safe procedures, or destruction techniques.

Tires

Tires collected through hurricane debris collection activities and deposited at parish collection centers will be ineligible for payment of the Waste Tire Management Fund (WTMF) subsidy and are to be treated as debris under FEMA funded debris removal programs. Eligibility of tires for the subsidy shall be governed by the most current version of DEQ's Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order. For more help please contact Tony Case or Kerri Meyers at DEQ Financial Services, Phone: (225) 219-3863, Fax: (225) 219-3868.

Used Oil

Used motor oil, transmission fluid and generator oils may be recycled by contacting a registered used oil transporter.

Latex Paint

Latex paint, if not recycled, may be hardened by adding an absorbent, such as cat litter or a commercial hardener and then sent to a municipal landfill.

Other Hazardous Wastes

Hazardous wastes, such as old gasoline, oil based paints, chemicals and solvents should be handled using a qualified hazardous waste contractor who is sending the materials to a permitted hazards waste facility or reclaimer.

Monitoring

Demolition teams, debris collectors, local governments, approved Emergency Debris Management Site operators and landfill operators should remain vigilant for the proper handling of Household Hazardous Materials.

Recordkeeping

Processors should keep a record of the amount of materials recovered and transported for recycling. Some products already require recordkeeping, e.g. used oil, and duplicate recordkeeping is not required, but a week summary report by category is expected. (form to be provided)

EPA and DEQ are ready and willing to help local governments with their sites. For technical assistance, please contact John Rogers at LDEQ, 800-305-6621 (225-219-3266 local) in Baton Rouge or Nancy Jones with EPA Region 6 at 214-789-1527.

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