



SWANA

SAFETY FIRST

Debris Management

Disaster debris can overwhelm solid waste and resource management systems and create unsafe situations, such as flooded roads, decreased visibility, and blocked access to necessary infrastructure.

National Preparedness Month is an annual campaign in the US each September to raise awareness of the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness. While some natural events such as hurricanes and winter storms offer a window of preparation, others can begin suddenly, like fires and tornadoes. To decrease the risk of an inefficient response, ensure you're prepared before disaster strikes.

Advanced planning for debris management keeps communities safe and functional. Review these tips to facilitate quick and efficient disaster response:

- Inform residents of the methods that will be used to collect debris (e.g., curbside collection, community drop-off bins).
- Have a disaster debris plan in place for your team members and make sure that all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Address how debris will be managed if there is a lack of landfill capacity.
- Sort construction and demolition waste prior to collection to increase potential for reuse and recycling.
- Evaluate reuse and recycling programs to determine if they can handle disaster-related waste.
- Know the assigned locations for debris staging, temporary storage, and decontamination.
- Address health and safety issues, such as handling animal carcasses and asbestos-containing materials.



Sources: [SWANA](#), [FEMA](#), and [EPA](#)

OCTOBER 21-24, 2024
WASTECON[®]
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