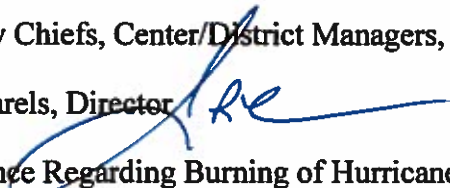




FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** October 17, 2016  
**To:** Deputy Chiefs, Center/District Managers, and Operations Administrators  
**From:** Jim Karels, Director   
**Subject:** Guidance Regarding Burning of Hurricane Debris

As a result of the impacts of Hurricane Matthew and in accordance with Chapter 590.02 Florida Statutes and Rule 5I-2.006(12), the following guidelines have been approved for implementation in the following counties:

District 7

Duval

District 10

St. Johns, Volusia

District 16

Indian River

Counties/municipalities can openly burn untreated vegetative debris generated by Hurricane Matthew at designated locations for a period of 60 days from the date of this memorandum. Designated sites must be mutually agreed upon by both the county/municipality and the Florida Forest Service. The following conditions must be met in order to provide for safe burning;

- 1) Authorization must be obtained from the Florida Forest Service daily. Multi-day authorizations can be granted if certified pile burning is authorized. Use the "Landclearing Non-Residential" category in FMIS when issuing authorizations and place in comments section "Hurricane Debris"
- 2) Piles must be three hundred (300) feet or more away from any occupied building, one hundred (100) feet from any paved public roadway, and fifty feet (50) or more away from any wildland, brush or combustible structure.
- 3) Burning piles must be attended at all times
- 4) Piles must be burned during legal burning hours in accordance with the Rule 5I-2 F.A.C.
- 5) An initial on-site inspection (OSI) should be performed and periodic OSIs should also be performed to ensure compliance

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- 6) Moisture content and composition of vegetative debris should be favorable to good burning which will minimize emissions**

**We need to be sensitive to the needs of the affected citizens so they can get back to a normal, which may include the ability to burn “yard trash” as defined in the rule and when not restricted by local ordinance. Fire prevention efforts must be augmented to increase public awareness of the potential for escaped fires.**

**cc: Jeff Vowell, Assistant Director**  
**John Fish, Bureau Chief, Forest Protection**  
**Erin Albury, Bureau Chief, Field Operations**  
**Jeff Koerner, FDEP, Division of Air Resource Management**