

# POST-STORM GUIDANCE

# OPEN PILE BURNING



Once an Emergency Final Order is issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in response to an emergency created by the landfall of tropical systems, it will allow the following types of open pile burning cleanup activities at Disaster Debris Management Sites (DDMSs) pursuant to [Section 403.7071, Florida Statutes](#).

## **OPEN PILE BURNING**

Only storm-generated vegetative material such as whole trees, tree stumps, branches, tree trunks and other leafy material can be burned in an open pile at a DDMS pursuant to the Emergency Final Order. Open pile burning of vegetative debris is managed and authorized by the Florida Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Local governments and their agents may also burn storm-generated yard trash, other vegetative debris and untreated wood from construction and demolition debris in air curtain incinerators per DEP's Post-Storm Guidance on Air Curtain Incinerators

## **REQUIREMENTS**

DEP defers to the Florida Forest Service for establishing requirements related to the open burning of vegetative material. All pile burning, except residential pile burns that are less than eight (8) feet in diameter require daily burn authorizations from the local [Florida Forest Service Field Unit](#).

- Open pile burning under the Emergency Final Order is limited to DDMSs; and
- The burning of asbestos-containing materials, hazardous waste, or other material prohibited by Rule 62-256.300, F.A.C., is prohibited.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

To the greatest extent possible, efforts should be made to minimize the impacts from smoke from open pile burning. If DEP determines that open pile burning at a DDMS is creating a nuisance, DEP may restrict or prevent additional burning activities at that location. See DEP's Open Burning at a DDMS Guidance for site selection criteria for open burning. Open pile burning should be conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts to wetlands or other surface waters. Any wetland or surface water areas that are used or affected by open burning must be fully restored once the burning is complete. Please consult your local [DEP District Office](#) if you conduct open burning that impacts wetlands or surface waters.

## **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions regarding the open pile burning allowed pursuant to the Emergency Final Order, please contact your [Florida Forest Service Field Unit](#) or Florida Forest Service headquarters at 850-681-5800 or [FFSsupport@FDACS.gov](mailto:FFSsupport@FDACS.gov).