

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.

OPEN PILE BURNING

Only vegetative material such as whole trees, tree stumps, branches, tree trunks and other leafy material can be burned in an open pile 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 burn hurricane-generated yard trash, other vegetative debris and untreated wood from construction and demolition debris in air curtain incinerators pursuant to the Emergency Final Order as described in 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 piles of less than eight (8) feet in diameter on residential property require daily burn authorizations from the local [Florida Forest Service Field Unit](#).

- Open pile burning under the Emergency Final Order is limited to disaster debris management sites (DDMSs), with prior written authorization from DEP required before burning can begin; and
- The burning of asbestos-containing materials, hazardous waste, or other material prohibited by Rule 62-256.300, F.A.C., is prohibited.

For more information on Florida Forest Service's laws, please visit: [Know the Law Before You Burn Fact Sheet](#).

RESTRICTIONS

To the greatest extent possible, open pile burning should be conducted in a manner that does not impact 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 FFSupport@FDACS.gov.