

POST-STORM GUIDANCE

AIR CURTAIN INCINERATORS



In response to an emergency created by the landfall of tropical systems, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will typically issue an Emergency Authorization that waives specific rules and statutes to address the need for immediate response and recovery actions.

Air Curtain Incinerators

An air curtain incinerator is a device used to control air emissions during burning. The device operates by projecting a high velocity curtain of air across an open chamber or pit in which combustion occurs.

The Emergency Authorization allows local governments to burn hurricane-generated yard trash, other vegetative debris and untreated wood from construction and demolition debris in air curtain incinerators in accordance with [Section 403.7071\(6\), Florida Statutes](#).

Requirements

In operating an air curtain incinerator under this Emergency Authorization, the following requirements apply:

- The pit width cannot exceed 12 feet;
- The vertical side walls must be maintained;
- Waste material must not protrude above the level of the air curtain; and
- Ash cannot be allowed to build up in the pit higher than one-third the pit depth or to the point where ash begins to interfere with combustion, whichever level is lower.

Hours of Operation

Under the Emergency Authorization, refractory-lined air curtain incinerators may operate 24 hours per day. Air curtain incinerators without refractory-lined walls may also operate 24 hours per day as long as reasonable efforts are made to prevent nuisance smoke.

Restrictions

The burning of asbestos-containing materials or hazardous waste is prohibited and not allowed under the Emergency Authorization.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the air curtain incinerator provision of the Emergency Authorization, please contact:

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Please refer to DEP's fact sheet on open pile burning for additional information on requirements related to burning vegetative materials without utilizing an air curtain incinerator.