

POST-STORM GUIDANCE

OPEN PILE BURNING



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.

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. Open pile burning of vegetative debris is managed by the Florida Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Local governments may burn hurricane-generated yard trash, other vegetative debris and untreated wood from construction and demolition debris in air curtain incinerators as described in DEP's fact sheet on [air curtain incinerators](#).

Requirements

DEP defers to the Florida Forest Service for establishing requirements related to the open burning of vegetative material. [Florida Forest Service requirements](#)

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 provision of the Emergency Authorization, please contact your [local Florida Forest Service field unit office](#). You may also contact the Florida Forest Service headquarters at 850-681-5800 or FFSsupport@FreshFromFlorida.com.