



## **Storm- Related Debris Removal FAQs May 10, 2022**

### **When will storm-related debris collection occur?**

It will depend on the severity of the storm. Please be patient and monitor local media and the county's website [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) for updates and more details.

### **What is the difference between storm-related debris and household garbage?**

Storm-related debris includes any trees, tree limbs and shrubs that were blown down. It also includes any fencing, flooring, furniture, carpet and wallboard that had to be removed from the home due to flooding or other structural damage. This will be picked up by the county's debris collection contractors. Items should be placed in front of your home. Storm-related yard waste must be kept separate from other items placed out for collection.

### **How should storm related debris be sorted?**

Storm debris should be separated into six categories: normal household garbage, yard waste, construction and demolition, appliances, electronics, and household hazardous waste. See the diagram shown on [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness)

### **Where do you place debris?**

All debris must be placed curbside, without blocking the roadway or storm drains. Placing debris near or on trees, poles, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants or meters makes removal difficult. If you do not have a sidewalk, place debris at the edge of your property line.

### **Who will collect my storm debris?**

The county will use a private contractor to collect storm debris that is placed at the curb. Homeowners, communities, etc. may elect to make arrangements for collecting storm debris and is responsible for requesting any reimbursements directly from their insurance company or directly from the State of Florida. It is recommended to check with your insurance company if you elect not to utilize County services.

### **When will my regular household collections resume?**

Be patient. Following a storm, the health and safety of our residents and restoration of the county is our top priority. Regular collections of garbage, recycling and yard waste will resume as soon as it is safe for collection crews to do so. Please follow local media and [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) for the latest updates.

**What is considered storm-related bulk pickup?**

Storm-related bulk items are mattresses and furniture, sheds, fences and appliances damaged by the storm. Non-storm-related bulk items are the everyday items to normally dispose of, such as a chair, vacuum cleaner or patio umbrella.

**Will bulky items related to the storm be picked up?**

Bulky items (appliances, electronics, furniture) will be picked up by the county's debris removal contractor. Hurricane-related bulky items should be placed curbside. Bulky items must be separated from yard debris.

**Will non-storm-related bulky items be picked up?**

Non-storm-related bulky items will be picked up by your normal collection hauler on your regularly scheduled collection day. Keep bulky items separated from yard debris.

**What do I do with my storm-related yard debris?**

Bundle pile the yard debris loosely (do not place in paper or plastic bags) in front of your home. Storm-related yard waste should be separated from construction and demolition debris and bulky items. Keep piles of yard waste away from mailboxes, water meters, backflow prevention devices, utility poles and other objects until collected by the county's debris collection contractors.

**How many times will the trucks pick up on my street?**

All areas will have more than one pick up if needed. There will eventually be a deadline posted for debris to be placed on the street for pickup. Please be patient and monitor [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) for updates.

**Debris collection contractors missed my pile?**

If material was not sorted correctly, will result in non-collection.

All areas will have more than one pick-up if needed. There will eventually be a deadline posted for debris to be placed on the street for pickup. Please be patient and monitor [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) for updates.

**What type of debris collection vehicle will collect storm debris in cul-de-sac communities?**

The debris collection contractor has access to many types of debris collection trucks and equipment to accommodate the collection on small and narrow streets throughout the county.

**What is considered non-eligible yard waste?**

Non-storm-related yard debris collected from land clearing or lawn maintenance is considered non-eligible. This debris must be prepared as per regular guidelines and set out for regularly scheduled pick up or taken to a yard waste processing facility for proper disposal. Disposal fees will apply. Any lawn service or landscape contractors that is land clearing or providing lawn maintenance on private property will not be allowed to dispose of the non-storm-related yard debris on the public right-of-way.

### **What is required from private/gated communities to commence storm debris collection through the county?**

Private/gated communities must submit a Right-of-Entry (ROE) form to Collier County prior to storm debris collections in their community. ROE requires the property manager or president's signature of authority for the community. The form can be requested by emailing [hurricaneppdr@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:hurricaneppdr@colliercountyfl.gov).

### **Where can we obtain the Right-of-Entry (ROE) form?**

The ROE can be obtained by calling 239-252-7575, emailing [hurricaneppdr@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:hurricaneppdr@colliercountyfl.gov) or by filling out survey on the [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) website.

### **Why is an ROE needed?**

Gaining legal access to private property is an important aspect of a remediation project from start to finish. Multiple facets of a project may require access to a property even before the actual debris removal or demolition begins

### **Can private/gated communities that paid to have storm-related debris removed from the community get reimbursement from FEMA?**

Homeowners, communities, etc. that elect not to utilize County services is responsible for requesting any reimbursements directly from their insurance company or directly from the State of Florida. It is recommended to check with your insurance company if you elect not to utilize County services. The County will not reimburse for debris collected.

### **What are the criteria for Right of Private Property Debris Removal?**

The County's request to FEMA must demonstrate legal authority to remove debris, indemnify the government from any claims arising from debris removal, and demonstrate that debris removal is a public interest.

- **Legal Authority:** State the County's legal authority and responsibility to remove debris from private property. The applicable law, ordinance, or code should be referenced.
- **Indemnification:** State that Right-of-Entry and hold harmless agreements will be established with each property owner to indemnify the government from claims arising from debris removal.
- **Public Interest:** A determination from the County's public health officer that debris on private property constitutes an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety.

FEMA will evaluate the County's submission and determine if they agree private property debris removal is in the public interest and will provide a written response providing the guidelines of their approval

### **Does agreeing to an ROE mean I am agreeing to the whole project?**

In most cases, no. Signing the ROE does not mean you are agreeing to having the project implemented. Agreeing to allow access to your property will allow the County and its contractors to access your property to perform a site inspection and collect the information necessary to submit to FEMA for review and approval

### **Do I have to pay for these services?**

With ROE, you must submit a copy of your homeowner's insurance policy. If your insurance policy covers disaster related debris removal or demolition, there may be an equitable charge to prevent duplication of benefits for services. This program was designed to help individual homeowners without the means to remove disaster debris or demolish unrecoverable structures on their property following a major disaster.

### **What is typically eligible under Private Property debris removal?**

Debris Removal -Hazardous limbs, trees, stumps, or other debris caused by a disaster that is near a commonly used area or maintained space of a property.

The eligible areas on a property are determined on an individual basis following a field survey. Demolition-The demolition and debris removal of a structure that is a health hazard and not recoverable or in threat of collapse.

### **What is NOT typically eligible under the private property debris removal program?**

Debris removal from vacant lots, unimproved property, commercial property and unused or unmaintained areas. Debris on agricultural lands used for crops or livestock. Concrete slabs or foundations-on-grade.

### **What is the purpose of the Right-of-Entry (ROE) and Hold Harmless Agreement (HHA)?**

The ROE grants right of property access and entry to the County, its agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for inspecting, removing, and clearing eligible storm-generated debris. The HHA releases the County, State, their agencies, contractors, and subcontractors for damage of any type, whatsoever, either to the property or persons situated thereon and releases, discharges, and waives any action, either legal or equitable which might arise out of activities on the property during property inspection, debris removal and/or demolition.

### **How soon will the work be done for private/gated communities?**

Eligible private property debris removal or structural demolition is a long process with multiple approvals. Approval and scheduling of structural demolition on properties will take even longer and undergo additional reviews and approvals.

### **How can I help?**

Public announcements will be issued on local news, social media and county website [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness). Please be patient. Schedules may be disrupted.

## **Regular Curbside Collection After A Storm**

### **Will my garbage be picked up today?**

District I and II franchise contracted haulers are picking up trash and recycling items on your regularly scheduled collection day.

### **My garbage was not picked up today.**

Please contact customer service at (239) 252-2380 to report missed pickups. For safety reasons, District I and II franchise contracted haulers will not make collection in areas where debris blocks the road or where there is lowhanging or downed lines.

### **What do I do with my extra garbage?**

Extra garbage can be put in heavy duty garbage bags and placed by the garbage roll cart on your regularly scheduled collection day.

### **When will recycling be picked up?**

Recycling will be picked up on your regular scheduled day.

### **My recycling was not picked up today.**

Please contact customer service at (230) 252-2380 to report missed pickups. For safety reasons, District I and II franchise contracted haulers will not make collection in areas where debris blocks the road or where there is lowhanging or downed lines.

### **What is the difference between storm-related debris and household trash?**

Storm debris includes any trees, tree limbs and shrubs that were blown down by the hurricane. It also includes any fencing, flooring, furniture, carpet, wallboard, etc., that had to be removed from the home due to flooding or other structural damage. This will be picked up by the county's debris collection contractors. Items should be placed on the county's right-of-way in front of your home. Storm-related yard waste must be kept separate from other items placed out for collection. Refer to county's website [colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness](http://colliercountyfl.gov/hurricanepreparedness) for updates and more details.