



MANAGING DEBRIS FROM DECLARED DISASTERS

TEMPORARY SITES FOR EFFECTIVE RECOVERY

A **temporary debris management site**, or **TDMS**, is an authorized site to manage debris from a declared disaster event for up to 90 days.



Why use a TDMS?

Designating a TDMS can help facilitate debris removal from roadsides and prevent landfills from becoming overwhelmed after disasters. These sites manage a wide range of debris, including vegetation, clean lumber, electronic waste, garbage, household hazardous waste, and more.

A facility may be eligible for FEMA reimbursement after a declared disaster has been made if they have received a temporary authorization from TCEQ.



Who can apply?

Local governments or TCEQ authorized municipal solid waste facilities (like transfer stations and landfills) can apply. If you do not fall into one of these categories, follow your city, county, or other local authorities' instructions on what to do with debris and other waste.



How can I apply?

Submit a complete TDMS application Form-20660¹ and map to your local TCEQ Regional Office. You **MUST** have approval from your local TCEQ Regional Office² prior to using the site. You can designate a site prior to the declaration of a disaster to help facilitate approval.

Where can I place a TDMS?



You can place a TDMS:

- Above the 100-year floodplain and outside any known wetlands.
- At least ¼ mile from public or private water supply.
- At least ¼ mile from any known caves, springs, and streams.

If the site will receive putrescible waste that may attract birds, it must be:

- at least 5,000 feet from exclusively piston-engine aircraft runways, or
- not within 10,000 feet of any airport runway used by turbojet aircraft, except as may be approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

Please note that stricter requirements are in place for sites requesting burning or chipping.

Additional Resources



RG-518 Managing Debris from Declared Disasters³

RG-591 Disposing of Animal Carcasses Left Behind by a Declared Disaster⁴

RG-049 Outdoor Burning in Texas⁵

Emergency Response – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality⁶

Texas Division of Emergency Management⁷

Office of the Governor – Greg Abbott News Proclamation⁸

¹ www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/temp-debris-form

² www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/region

³ www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/compliance/publications/rg/rg-518.pdf

⁴ www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/compliance/publications/rg/rg-591-disposal-of-animal-carcasses-left-behind-after-a-disaster.pdf

⁵ www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/rg-049

⁶ www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/response

⁷ tdem.texas.gov

⁸ gov.texas.gov/news/category/proclamation