



## TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE

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Critical Infrastructure Division  
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# Waste Management for Authorized Facilities: Responding to a Disaster

If you must respond to damage from a hurricane, flood, tornado, fire, or other emergency this information will help you understand relevant environmental rules and decide on a reasonable course of action to follow.

If you have any questions, please contact the TCEQ regional office that serves you at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/region](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/region).

For information about other types of disasters, i.e.; spills, wildfires and other environmental emergencies or situations, go to [www.tceq.texas.gov/response](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/response).

## Municipal Solid Waste Facilities:

### May municipal solid waste facilities make changes such as extending operating hours or expanding capacity to address impacts from a declared disaster?

Your authorized MSW facility may request to temporarily extend operating and waste acceptance-hours, increase daily acceptance rate limits, authorize storage activities or increase storage limits, or change other operational limits, as appropriate to the disaster. These requests are prioritized during emergencies.

To contact the MSW Permits Section call 512-239-2335 or email [MSWPER@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:MSWPER@tceq.texas.gov).

### What do I need from TCEQ to stage debris for removal from impacted communities?

TCEQ may authorize temporary debris management sites (TDMS). The sites must also have local government approval and may not be located in the 100-year floodplain or within wetlands. Other restrictions apply, as found on the request form at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/temp-debris-form](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/temp-debris-form).

Authorizations are for 90 days but may be renewed. Contact your regional office to apply. Find the office that serves you at [www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/region](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/region).

## **Petroleum Storage Tank Facilities:**

### **Is construction notification required if petroleum storage tank systems are damaged or dislodged as a result of disaster-related effects?**

If you, as an owner or operator, are unable to meet pre-construction notification requirements of 30 TAC 334.6(2)(E) for removing or repairing a tank because of damage from a disaster, provide notification to TCEQ as soon as feasible after the removal or repair occurs.

Use the Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Construction Notification Form (TCEQ-495) at <[tceq.texas.gov/goto/PST\\_form](http://tceq.texas.gov/goto/PST_form)> and send to:

PST Registration & Self-Certification Team, MC-138  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

## **Industrial Hazardous Waste Facilities:**

### **How should I dispose of any hazardous waste that is generated as a result of the disaster?**

Separate hazardous waste generated by the disaster from other waste and dispose of it at an authorized hazardous waste management facility.

### **Can I get an extension to temporarily store hazardous waste on-site until it can be transported or processed?**

Under non-disaster conditions, 30 TAC 335.69 provides timeframes under which a hazardous waste generator may store or process on-site generated waste in tanks or containers using the following guidelines:

- Large quantity generators —90 days
- Small quantity generators —180 days

The TCEQ's executive director may grant an extension of up to 30 days if hazardous wastes must remain on-site for longer than these standard timeframes due to unforeseen, temporary, and uncontrollable circumstances.

To request an extension, call the Industrial and Hazardous Waste Permits Section at 512-239-2335 or write a letter to:

Industrial and Hazardous Waste Permits Section, MC 130  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087