

POST-STORM GUIDANCE

OPEN BURNING AT A DDMS



Pursuant to [Section 403.7071, Florida Statutes](#), local governments are authorized to combust storm-generated vegetative debris at Disaster Debris Management Sites (DDMSs). The combustion may be done in an Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) or by Open Pile Burning. Due to complaints of excessive open burning after recent storms, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is providing guidance for DDMS operators to use in determining whether a site is appropriate for open burning with an ACI or pile burning. This guidance assists operators of DDMSs in selecting appropriate locations for open burning of storm-generated vegetative debris.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DETERMINING DDMS SITE APPROPRIATENESS

DEP has developed the following questions to assist in determining whether a specific location is appropriate for use of an ACI or open pile burning to dispose of storm-generated vegetative debris. **Please note:** Use of an ACI will minimize the amount of smoke generated and will, therefore, have greater latitude in selecting appropriate sites.

Q: Will the burning of storm-generated vegetative debris cause excessive air pollution?

- Is the location of the DDMS located in a densely populated area?
- Can vegetative debris be burned safely and comply with the setbacks?
- How much storm-generated vegetative debris will be burned?
- How long will the burning activities occur for? The longer the time period the more smoke will be generated thereby increasing the likelihood of complaints.

Q: Does smoke resulting from the burning at a DDMS have the potential to generate complaints?

- Is the property large enough to provide sufficient setbacks to minimize potential impacts of smoke to neighbors?
- Open burning may be prohibited by local ordinances where a DDMS is located which may generate more complaints due to unfamiliarity with smoke.
- Open burning in urban areas may impact more people and generate more complaints. Open burning in a rural area on a large property with few nearby neighbors, will likely have fewer impacts and generate fewer complaints.
- Will smoke from the DDMS impact busy roads / highways or airports?

OPEN BURNING COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Should the Department receive complaints of excessive smoke from open burning operations at a DDMS, DEP will consider whether these factors were considered in selecting a site for open burning operations. If the site failed to consider these factors properly, DEP may restrict or prevent future open burning operations at a site that has received complaints from the public.