**Storm Debris Cleanup: When your county has been included in a Disaster Declaration**

Hurricanes can inundate Southwest Florida with millions of tons of debris including normal household garbage, household chemi­cal waste, appliances, construction/demolition and yard debris. Segregating the debris is critical in assisting in the recovery efforts for the community.

To help ensure that debris is collected in the most efficient, safe, and timely manner, we recommend that you follow these simple guidelines when clearing debris from your residential property after the next big storm hits. Businesses and owners of vacant lots are required to make their own arrangements for debris clean-up.

**First Priority**

***Normal Household Garbage***

Normal Household Garbage is deﬁned asmaterials and perishable items that are placed out for weekly collection in your trash container. These include your everyday household trash items**.** Place in your regular collection cart container or in heavy duty plastic bags, and place it in the normal location for your regular weekly collection.

**Second Priority**

**Normal Household Recyclables**

Normal household recyclables are deﬁned as materials capable of be­ing recycled, including:

* newspapers
* cardboard
* plastic containers labeled #1 through #7
* containers made of glass, steel and aluminum

**Yard Debris**: Vegetative matter including shrubs, palm fronds, tree trimmings, grass clippings, bushes, leaves, twigs or cut up tree branches. Small quantities should be prepared the same as for weekly collection, in containers, bags, or bundles of less than 50 pounds.

Large quantities of vegetative storm debris can be piled at the curb for mechanical collection.

Do not place near low hanging objects or around mailboxes and utility equipment including power poles, power lines, electric meters, fire hydrants, etc.

Collection crews will not enter private property to collect debris.

**Third Priority**

**Construction/Demolition Debris (C&D)**:

Materials directly relating to construction or demolition of buildings such as cement, glass, drywall, insulation, concrete block, etc.

**White Goods:**

Large discarded appliances including refrigerators, ranges, washing ma­chines, clothes dryers, water heaters, freezers, microwave ovens, and air conditioners. All items must be empty of contents. Refrigera­tors and or freezers containing food waste or other rotting wastes will not be collected.

**Recyclables**

**Bulk Items**

**Electronic Equipment**

**Tires**

You will be notiﬁed through media when collection of these items will take place. Disposal rules for small quantities of C&D materials vary by location, so look for media notices for speciﬁc guidance as to how best to dispose of these materials in your respective areas.

Do not mix any of the above materials. There will be separate collections for each material and they will be picked up according to priority in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Only yard debris directly generated from the storm event will be col­lected. Land clearing and landscape improvement activities are not eli­gible for collection. Debris from these activities will require removal and disposal to be arranged by the prop­erty owner at their expense.

There will be no collection of large quantities of yard debris on private roads or in gated com-munities un­less properties in these locations are included in a FEMA declaration or where an immediate threat to health and safety exists.

**Small quantities of Construction/Demolition materials:**

In many areas, quantities of C&D materials less than 2 cubic yards may be allowed to be placed at the curb alongside of normal household garbage. These materials would generally be placed in a container and/or bundled, weighing less than 50 pounds each and not exceeding 6 feet in length.

These materials may be collected with the normal household garbage provided the materials are compliant with your local collec­tion policies and ordinances.

**Storm Debris Information**

As the storm approaches, and in the immediate aftermath, look out for special notices in the local newspa­pers, special bulletins on your local government website, local radio and television channels, and other com­munications media.

During the first 72-hours after the storm has passed, Lee County Dept of Transportation, Law Enforcement, and other responders will be assessing the damage and road conditions to determine when collec­tions can resume.