

# SWANA

**SAFETY FIRST**

## Debris Management

**Disaster debris** can overwhelm solid waste and resource management systems and create unsafe situations, such as flooded roads, decreased visibility, and blocked access to necessary infrastructure.

**National Preparedness Month** is an annual campaign in the US each September to raise awareness of the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness. While some natural events such as hurricanes and winter storms offer a window of preparation, others can begin suddenly, like fires and tornadoes. To decrease the risk of an inefficient response, ensure you're prepared before disaster strikes.

**Advanced planning for debris management keeps communities safe and functional. Review these tips to facilitate quick and efficient disaster response:**

- Inform residents of the methods that will be used to collect debris (e.g., curbside collection, community drop-off bins).
- Have a disaster debris plan in place for your team members and make sure that all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- Address how debris will be managed if there is a lack of landfill capacity.
- Sort construction and demolition waste prior to collection to increase potential for reuse and recycling.
- Evaluate reuse and recycling programs to determine if they can handle disaster-related waste.
- Know the assigned locations for debris staging, temporary storage, and decontamination.
- Address health and safety issues, such as handling animal carcasses and asbestos-containing materials.



Sources: [SWANA](#), [FEMA](#), and [EPA](#)

OCTOBER 21-24, 2024  
**WASTECON**<sup>®</sup>  
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