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HURRICANE RESPONSE: SOLID WASTE ISSUES

Here is some information you may find helpful. LDEQ issued an emergency order in the wake of Hurricane Gustav that may impact your operation or allow you some regulatory flexibility as you respond to the situation created by the hurricane.

1. The expanded definition of construction and demolition debris IS NOT applicable under the current order. LDEQ made clear that the expanded definition, which includes items such as furniture, carpet, and stained or painted lumber from demolished buildings, was NOT applicable.
2. Temporary staging areas must be requested by the local government and approved by the LDEQ. Under the Debris Management Plan, sites previously approved under the Hurricane Katrina and Rita orders will be "automatically approved" for the same type of activities "provided there have been no significant changes in surrounding land use and potential receptors, and the site's authorization to operate was not rescinded or revoked by LDEQ as a result of non-compliant activity during its previous use." Certain criteria set forth in the Order must continue to be met. Local government must submit the appropriate request and receive LDEQ's approval prior to the site's use.
3. Vegetative debris must be handled in accordance with the Debris Management Plan. Essentially, LDEQ favors the reduction in volume of this material through chipping and grinding and its use in an appropriate manner. It use may include "a component of the cover system for a landfill or a means for providing erosion control." Prior approval of these sites is required.
4. Uncontaminated construction and demolition debris may be disposed of in a permitted Type III landfill or managed at a temporary staging area authorized by the LDEQ. Uncontaminated construction and demolition debris mixed with other uncontaminated hurricane-generated debris, such as white goods or household hazardous waste, should be segregated from other solid waste prior to disposal in a permitted landfill or authorized disposal site, except in cases where segregation is not practicable.
5. LDEQ may authorize, on a case-by-case basis, the disposal of construction and demolition debris containing incidental, de minimus, or trace amounts of contamination in a Type III landfill.
6. White goods (i.e., unsalvageable air conditioners, stoves and range tops, as well as refrigerators and freezers from which food has been removed) shall be stored in an area separate from other solid wastes and shall be stored in a manner that prevents vector and odor problems. No white goods may be stored at a site without a permit or other written authorization from the LDEQ. All white goods shall be removed from the storage facility or staging area and sent offsite for recycling, or recycled onsite, within ninety (90) days of initial receipt at the site.



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