

Guidelines for Disposing of Fire-Related Debris



Details for leaseholders and landfill/transfer station operators

Forest fires can have significant impacts on communities, possessions and people. If you are a leaseholder whose cabin, structure and/or belongings suffered damage due to wildfire, please accept our sincere sympathy. You will have many things to consider moving forward, including the responsibility of cleaning up your site following the fire – no easy job, but something that simply needs to be done as part of your lease agreement. We hope the following information provides some guidance on the proper disposal of fire-related debris, for both leaseholders and landfill/transfer station operators. You are encouraged to contact the Ministry of Environment to discuss any concerns or questions, including alternatives if disposal cannot occur in the near future.

1. Materials that were not impacted by fire should be separated as much as possible and handled in a manner consistent with regular garbage. For instance:

- Separate recyclables, especially materials that can be accepted by a local recycling outlet, such as used motor oil, used tires, waste electronics or waste paint. Collection sites for these materials exist across the province. Contact the Ministry of Environment or visit the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction website at www.saskwastereduction.ca to find a location that accepts materials for recycling;
 - Separate out good wood, including clean, unpainted or preserved demolition lumber, brush, trees and dead fall, etc.;
 - Clean up and quickly dispose of decaying garbage to prevent pests, such as rodents, insects and larger animals;
 - Handle dangerous goods as hazardous waste, ensuring that they are not disposed of in landfills and sites permitted under The Municipal Refuse and Management Regulations; and
 - Divide demolition materials into waste streams that can be salvaged for reuse in their original form, or recycled (if possible) for an alternate use.
 - Take all unusable waste to a landfill.
2. Fire debris, non-hazardous garbage, as well as construction and demolition waste from cleanup operations, must be disposed of at an approved landfill or transfer

station. A permit is needed for the construction and operation of a landfill before any waste can be disposed of at a particular site.

3. Below is a list of permitted landfills in northern Saskatchewan that may have the capacity to accept large amounts of debris material. Please check with these landfills prior to hauling any materials for disposal:
 - Bear Creek
 - Brabant Lake
 - Buffalo Narrows
 - La Loche
 - Patuanak
 - La Ronge
 - Stanley Mission
 - Missinipe
 - Turnor Lake
 - Pinehouse
 - St. George's Hill
 - Weyakwin
- If your lease site is not near any of these landfill areas, please check with your municipality or the Ministry of Environment on the status of the landfill or transfer station that you intend to use – keeping in mind that it is a violation to dispose of debris and waste in water or on land at a location that is not approved by the ministry.



4. Leaseholders are strongly encouraged to maintain documentation regarding waste disposal to indicate that cleanup debris has been disposed of appropriately. Proof is typically in the form of receipts from a disposal company, contractor, or for landfill fees.
5. Burning of non-separated waste materials or fire debris is prohibited under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA) unless authorized in a permit. Burning of waste is not permitted in landfills or transfer stations. Some landfill or transfer station operations separate trees, brush and untreated and unpainted wood on the site. This material may be burned at the landfill site with the prior approval of the Ministry of Environment. No other materials may be burned and must not be included in a burn pile at a landfill.
6. Hazardous and other materials such as fuels, pesticides, fertilizers, propane tanks, motor oil, lubricants, etc., whether damaged by fire or not, cannot be disposed of at a landfill. Items such as propane

tanks, dangerous goods, etc. should be stored in a secure location until proper arrangements for disposal can be made. If the local municipality has a storage location for dangerous goods, these materials should be placed there. If there is no such permanent storage location nearby, temporarily stored items should be disposed of as soon as possible. Long-term storage requires a permit from the Ministry of Environment.

7. Please observe any designated areas that are established at a landfill. Designated areas may include areas for disposal of:
 - large metal objects
 - dead animals
 - treated or spoiled grains
 - asbestos
 - shingles
 - compost
 - demolition material

Check with the operator of the landfill or transfer station to learn what materials are accepted.

8. If access to the landfill is temporarily unavailable due to fire conditions, the local municipal authority must provide alternate arrangements

for waste disposal services. Municipalities should consult with the Ministry of

Environment to obtain a temporary permit and/or lease for a municipal solid waste transfer station if/when other disposal options are not available.

Additional information can be found in the fact sheet, [Construction and Demolition Waste Management and Disposal, available on the ministry website.](#)

If have questions not covered in this fact sheet, or have unique disposal challenges, please contact the Ministry of Environment's Client Service Office at 1-800-567-4224 or one of the following regional offices:

Central and Northern Region:
Cathy Yuzek - 306-953-2890

Cathy.Yuzek@gov.sk.ca

Western Region:

Gil Happ - 306-236-7551

Gil.Happ@gov.sk.ca

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