



Orange
County
Answers

FACT Sheet

Provided as a Community Service of Orange County Public Works Department • 4200 S. John Young Parkway • Orlando, Florida 32839

Private/Gated Community Debris Removal Procedure

In the event of a disaster where debris removal work from private/gated property is necessary, a representative of the private/gated community, the president of the association or the management firm, will contact the County designee to arrange debris pickup. Because private/gated communities are private property, the County is restricted from initiating work on private property. For Orange County to assist, the community designee must first contact the County representative for coordination of debris pick-up as detailed in the points below:

- Upon receiving the request, the County representative and a representative from the County's contractor will visit the site to determine the amount of debris to be removed. A scheduled time will be assigned by the County to the community's contractor to move the debris to the designated location so the County's contractor will be on site to receive the debris. The County will issue a letter and provide a beginning and end date for the debris to be placed at the designated location.
- An alternative option will be made available to the private/gated community: The community can take the debris to a citizen site designated by the County. A letter will be provided to the community and their contractor specifying the designated citizen site and starting and ending dates for the debris removal. Each truck must have a copy of the letter to enter the debris site. No debris is to be placed at the designated location, right-of-way or citizen site prior to date stated in the letter to the community.

Per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policy debris will be removed from private property only in the case of severe damage where both the County and FEMA agree that the cited policy has been met. In these extreme instances, FEMA has devised a policy describing the criteria it uses to evaluate the eligibility of debris removal work from private property under the Public Assistance Program (*Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.13*). The policy summarized below is applicable to all major disasters and emergencies declared on or after the date of publication of this policy (*July 18, 2007*).

Generally, debris removal from private property following a disaster is the responsibility of the property owner. However, large-scale disasters may deposit enormous quantities of debris on private property over a large area resulting in widespread immediate threats to the public-at-large. In these cases, the State or local government may need to enter private property to remove debris to: eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, and safety; eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved property; or ensure economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community-at-large. In these situations, debris removal from private property may be considered to be in the public interest and thus may be eligible for reimbursement under the Public Assistance Program (*44 CFR 206.224*).

To gain approval for FEMA Assistance, FEMA will work with states affected by a disaster to designate those areas where the debris is so widespread that removal of the debris from private property is in the "public interest" pursuant to 44 CFR 206.224, and thus is eligible for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement on a case-by-case basis.

In the instance that Orange County is subject to a large-scale disaster where it is in the public interest to remove large-scale debris on private property, prior to commencing work, the County will submit a request for reimbursement and seek approval from the Federal coordinating officer, in accordance with 44 CFR 206.224.

For more information, visit the specific FEMA web page at: http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/9523_13.shtm

FOLLOWING A DISASTER WHERE DEBRIS REMOVAL IS NECESSARY, CONTACT RON RIBARIC OF ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AT 407-836-8066 TO COORDINATE DEBRIS REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE/GATED COMMUNITIES.