



Hurricane / Disaster “Event” Preparation and Guidelines:

Managing your household trash and garbage before and after an event.

Listen carefully to local Emergency Management Officials and media advisories regarding potential shut or suspension of services such as garbage collection.

Preparation: Should our area be subject to imminent impact (within 48 hours) garbage collection service and landfill operations will be suspended to secure our facilities and allow our employees to evacuate or secure their families. Therefore, do not place any material out of collection, place your garbage and recycling containers inside your garage and secure any remaining loose materials on your property.

Post Event: Waste Management (WM) will restart **curbside collection** only, immediately in our communities and on streets that are passable according to the regular, scheduled collection days. This limited service will remain in place until Storm Debris has been cleared from the community.

PRIORITY collections due to health and sanitation reason are: household garbage containing food waste, diapers, freezer and refrigerator spoilage only!

SEPARATE the following items into completely separate piles:

- 1. Household garbage**, food waste and diapers.
- 2. Bagged material** such as leaves, pine needles, small branches and other non-food waste.
- 3. Broken limbs**, branches, fence boards, rolled carpet, padding and furniture.
- 4. Appliances**, washer, driers, stoves, refrigerators, microwaves or other electronics.

This is necessary to allow WM to collect the household garbage only. Storm contractors will collect all storm debris in accordance with their separate contracts with the county and /or municipalities.

The severity of damages in the impact area will affect services due to; expected heavy volumes, impassable streets due to fallen trees, downed power lines, damaged highway traffic control systems and long waits at the disposal sites. Routes may not be completed on each designated collection day due to these circumstances. In those cases, WM will collect the remaining household garbage from the previous day, starting the next morning.

Communication: If you have telephone/cell service available during this time, you may call our local telephone number (713) 686-6666 for continuous updates regarding restoration of our services. WM will be providing additional updates through the media (TV and radio) and direct email to our primary community contacts.

Disasters challenge everyone. Being prepared and knowing what to expect in this difficult time permits us to focus on getting our families and neighborhoods put back together. Mutual cooperation in these efforts will speed the recovery time for all of our communities.