



# Township of Branchburg

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

## MEMORANDUM

TO: TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

FROM: GREGORY J. BONIN, ADMINISTRATOR 

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2013

RE: STORM DEBRIS CLEAN UP POLICY

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Over the past few years the Township has been battered by a variety of storms that have left in their wake an unbelievable amount of debris. Unlike many towns, Branchburg opted to help residents by conducting curbside pick-up of storm debris. We also opened our Public Works facility to residents who preferred to bring the debris to us for disposal. After each event, residents inquired whether the Township will conduct such a curbside pick-up or open our DPW facility for debris dropping off. In an effort to set aside concerns for future storm events, the Township has adopted the below storm debris policy. This policy is intended to eliminate any confusion or concerns that residents may have in a post storm clean up situation. It also seeks to balance the needs of the community with the reality of a limited municipal budget and workforce.

### Storm Debris Clean Up Policy

The Township will conduct curbside pick-up of storm debris (tree limbs, brush, etc.) only after a State of Emergency has been declared by the Governor or President to which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial reimbursement of costs. The declaration of a "State of Emergency" is a widely publicized event that every resident in Branchburg would be made aware via numerous media sources. Upon such a declaration, residents can plan their property clean-up accordingly with the anticipation that the Township will pick-up storm debris curbside and open the DPW facility. It is important that residents follow the procedures detailed below.

#### For storm events in which a State of Emergency has been declared:

- The Township will conduct a storm debris curbside pick-up when appropriate.
- Residents may only put out storm debris for curbside pick-up.
- Storm debris is defined as tree limbs, branches, leaves, and other vegetative waste.
- No household items will be picked up (e.g. construction debris, home siding, milled wood, etc.)
- No food waste will be taken. Food waste needs to be put out in your regular trash.
- Tree limbs must be cut into lengths no more than six feet (6 ft.)
- Place limbs with the butt end facing the curb.
- Debris must be placed at the curb line on the home owner's property. The Township will not go onto private property to remove debris.
- Do not place piles of debris (limbs or leaves) in the road or in drainage ditches.
- Separate leaves, limbs and large trunks/stumps.
- The Township will conduct one pass through the town. Once the entire town has been completed it will then be determined if a second pass is needed.
- Leaf pickup (if appropriate) will continue once storm damage has been cleared.



- The Township will open the DPW facility to residents who may elect to bring both storm debris and leaves to the DPW facility/dumpster area between 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday excluding holidays while curbside pick-up continues.
  - No food waste will be accepted at the DPW dumpster facility. Food waste needs to be put out in your regular trash.
  - Only storm debris will be accepted at the DPW dumpster facility.
  - Contractors will not be allowed to use the DPW dumpster facility to drop off storm debris.

For storm events where there has **not been** a FEMA qualified State of Emergency declaration:

- The Township will not conduct a curbside pickup of storm debris.
- Should the Township determine that the event warrants our involvement we will open the DPW dumpster facility to residents who may elect to bring both storm debris and leaves to the DPW facility/dumpster area between 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday excluding holidays.
- In these cases residents should call 908-526-1300 ext. 177 for details.
  - No household items will be accepted at the DPW dumpster facility. (e.g. construction debris, home siding, milled wood, etc.)
  - No food waste will be accepted at the DPW dumpster facility. Food waste needs to be put out in your regular trash.
  - Only storm debris will be accepted at the DPW dumpster facility.
  - Contractors will not be allowed to use the DPW dumpster facility to drop off storm debris.