

**Quick Reference  
Flooding Resource Guide  
(2024)**

**State Agency Assistance**

- Iowa DNR Disaster Assistance
  - <https://www.iowadnr.gov/disaster>
- IDALS Disaster Assistance
  - <https://iowaagriculture.gov/news/resources-flooding>
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - <https://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov>
- Iowa Department of Public Health
  - <http://idph.iowa.gov/flooding>

**Corn Stover & Stalk Debris**

DO

- Corn stover and stalks impacted by flood waters can be burned under Open Burning exemption a: Disaster Rubbish (567 IAC 23.2(3)“a”).
- Land apply, if land is NOT wet/saturated; it must be disked into the ground; see PDF handout
- Burn at the city burn site with tree trimmings; Note, try to exhaust all disposal options before burning.
  - When burning
    - Burn dry material to reduce smoke
    - Burn only when weather conditions are favorable
    - Burn in smaller piles to prevent smoldering
    - Monitor burn pile at all times
    - Place burn piles at least 1/4 mile from any occupied residence
    - Burn with tree and brush waste when possible
- Utilize as compost
- Take to a landfill; call first to ensure they will take it

DO NOT

- Feed it to animal; it is considered contaminated
- Land apply, if land is wet/saturated
- Bury

**Disaster Debris Disposal / Debris Management Form**

- INCLUDES: Includes vegetative debris burn/stockpiling sites, city tree burn sites, & the waste in the staging areas.
- DOCUMENTATION: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/disaster>

## Displaced Containers (tanks, underground, aboveground, barrels, propane)

### DO

- Report it: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/disaster>
- Contact Propane Supplier/Dealer: see list.
- If found, and not yours, look for the serial number on the tank's name plate. Then contact the supplier, who has a list of tank owners by serial number.
- EPA will pick up tanks and any other containers and take them to a staging area. At that location they will record the serial number and any other identifying information. The owners of missing tanks will be able to pick their container at the staging area. **The only staging area approved so far is northbound rest area on I-29 north of Hwy 34.**

### DO NOT

- Do not bury, burn, or dump
- Do not handle containers that have the potential to contain toxic chemicals or gases. Report the location as noted above.

## Floodplains

- Find general information about flooding: <http://ifis.iowafloodcenter.org/ifis/en/app/>.
- To see gauges in Iowa: <http://ifis.iowafloodcenter.org/ifis/app/>
- To get Flood Alerts: <http://ifis.iowafloodcenter.org/ifis/app/>
- Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management & Dam Safety Program Contacts:
  - Dam Safety – Jon Garton, 515-725-8360 (work), 515-250-1142 (cell), [jonathan.garton@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:jonathan.garton@dnr.iowa.gov)
  - Dam Safety – Casey Welty, 515-725-8330 (work), [casey.welty@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:casey.welty@dnr.iowa.gov)

## Grain Debris (corn, soybean)

### DO

- Land apply, if land is NOT wet/saturated; it must be disked into the ground
- Utilize as compost
- Take to a landfill
- RESOURCE: ISU Extension guidance, click [here](#).
- Burn, with a waiver from AQ Bureau; contact Julie Duke, [julie.duke@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:julie.duke@dnr.iowa.gov), (515) 669-8474

### DO NOT

- Feed it to animal; it is considered contaminated
- Land apply, if land is wet/saturated
- Bury

## Household Hazardous Wastes (motor oil, household cleaners, paints)

### DO

- Contact local landfill; it will know how to properly dispose
- Stage at an approved location established by the city, county, or DNR.

## DO NOT

- Dump into ditches, pour down drains or sewers, or place in the trash. Pouring down drains and storm sewers has caused explosions in the sewer system. Storm sewers typically empty directly into lakes and streams, creating a path for hazardous chemicals to impact drinking water, recreation and aquatic life.
- Placing it in the trash easily creates the opportunity for incompatible chemicals to mix. Chemical reactions can result in explosions, fires, and toxic fumes causing personal injury and damage to garbage trucks and equipment.

## Private Drinking Water Wells

### DO

- Iowa DNR Private Wells, click [here](#).
- CDC Flooding Waters or Standing Waters, click [here](#).
- Contact the county sanitarian to test well water, click [here](#).
  - All well owners should test their well water at least once each year and any other time they believe their well water changes in taste, odor, or clarity, and anytime flood waters are affecting properties near the well.
- Iowa Dept. of HHS, including Grants to Counties, click [here](#)
  - HHS contact: Mindy Uhle, [melinda.uhle@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:melinda.uhle@idph.iowa.gov), (515) 499-1395

### DO NOT

- Drink well water if it has changed in taste, odor, or clarity, and anytime flood waters are affecting properties near the well until it has been tested.

## Sand and Sandbag Disposal

### DO

- IDALS – Flood Resources page for Sand; see [here](#).
- Contact a quarry; they might be able to use it
- Contact city or county to see if they could use it
- Consider stockpiling the sand from sandbags that have been impacted by floodwater
- If the sand can be removed from the bags economically and effectively, the sand could be used next winter to sand streets, on gravel road surfaces, or spread on agricultural land or public ground
- Return to the sand company to be reused
- Can be used for fill material under buildings, roads, parking lots, and so forth
- Can use for daily cover in a landfill
- Can reuse to spread on a backyard flower garden or use in some other **limited** access area
- Sand from bags can be used as fill material, such as on gravel streets and alleys, parking lots, and eroded areas in ditches and low-lying areas.
- NOTE: When sandbag material has been spread out on the ground, allowed to dry and exposed to sunlight, it poses only a small public health risk relative to the existence of disease organisms.
- US Army Corps of Engineers regulates/permits disposal into a river or floodplain, see [here](#).

- o Requires a permit application to be completed (404 Permit)
- o Telephone: (402) 896-0723
- o Completed application and supporting documents should be mailed to: US Army Corps of Engineers, 8901 South 154th Street, Suite 2, Omaha, NE 68138

#### DO NOT

- Do not use for recreational purposes, for example, beaches, yards, or children's sandboxes; it is considered contaminated
- DNR does not recommend putting it in river, floodplain, or dump as garbage. Refer to US Army Corps of Engineers info above.

## Tree Trimmings

#### DO

- Take to a city burn pile
- Set up additional temporary city burn pile sites; contact Field Office 4
- Burn, under disaster exemption period, and so long as it is not anything banned under federal law (NESHAP mainly, i.e., asbestos).
- Corn can be included in this burn pile
- Chip for beneficial use

#### DO NOT

- Bury

## Temporary Transfer Stations

- An emergency transfer station permit is required, if waste is staged at one or more locations prior to landfill disposal. For construction & demolition debris, appliances, household hazardous waste, etc.
- NEEDS to obtain emergency permit: Location(s) and responsible official contact information; Must be under the control or direction of the City/County/US EPA/Local solid waste management agency....not individual farmers or residents; Consideration should be given to neighboring properties when locating the emergency transfer operations so that odor, dust, vector, litter, leachate, runoff concerns are addressed or minimized, and that steps are taken to return the property to the way it was accepted.
- DOCUMENTATION: Example from 2011 provided
- CONTACT: Chad Stobbe, DNR ESS, 515-725-8351, [chad.stobbe@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:chad.stobbe@dnr.iowa.gov)
- NOTE: If waste is picked up curbside and transported to the landfill, the emergency transfer station permit is not required.
- Authority to issue an emergency solid waste transfer (XFR) permits, [567 IAC 106.3\(11\)](#).

## Waste Tire Disposal

#### DO

- Take to a landfill if cut into 18" pieces or smaller
- Take to a tire recycler

#### DO NOT

- Burn tires; or dump tires, including whole, cut, or shredded