

Vegetative Debris Removal Announcement

The Ouachita Parish Police Jury will begin Hurricane Laura-related debris removal operations from the unincorporated areas of the Parish on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. Parish residents who wish to have their vegetative debris (tree branches, logs, trunks, stumps, etc.) removed can greatly assist our contractor in getting your debris off your property and properly disposed of, but we need your help to make this happen.

FEMA policy does not allow the Parish or its debris contractor to go onto private property to collect debris; the contractor must remain on the public roadway while removing your storm-related vegetative debris. Therefore, all eligible debris must be taken and placed along the roadway shoulder (not in the road or ditch) for removal. In placing your vegetative debris along the shoulder, please stack it wide along the shoulder, not deep into your property. The contractor's equipment can only reach approximately 10 feet from the roadway, so any debris placed greater than 10 feet from the edge of the road may be left and uncollected.

Please adhere to the following elements when staging your debris:

- Time is of the essence for getting the debris removed; please do not wait as it may delay when we are able to remove your debris;
- Only vegetative debris will be removed by the Parish's contractor at this time. Do not put any household municipal waste/garbage in the debris pile;
- Do not put debris in garbage bags;
- Cut logs, limbs, and other debris in lengths less than 10 feet;
- Place the debris at your property's edge alongside the roadway, piling it wide rather than deep. Do not place it in any swales or ditches, and do not hide mailboxes, fire hydrants, signs, or other such appurtenances in the debris. If the contractor can't see these items, they may be damaged in the removal operation.

An announcement regarding other types of debris removal will be made at a later date.

If you have any questions regarding this operation or simply want more information about your specific situation, please send an email with your details to volkert.ouachita.debris@gmail.com.

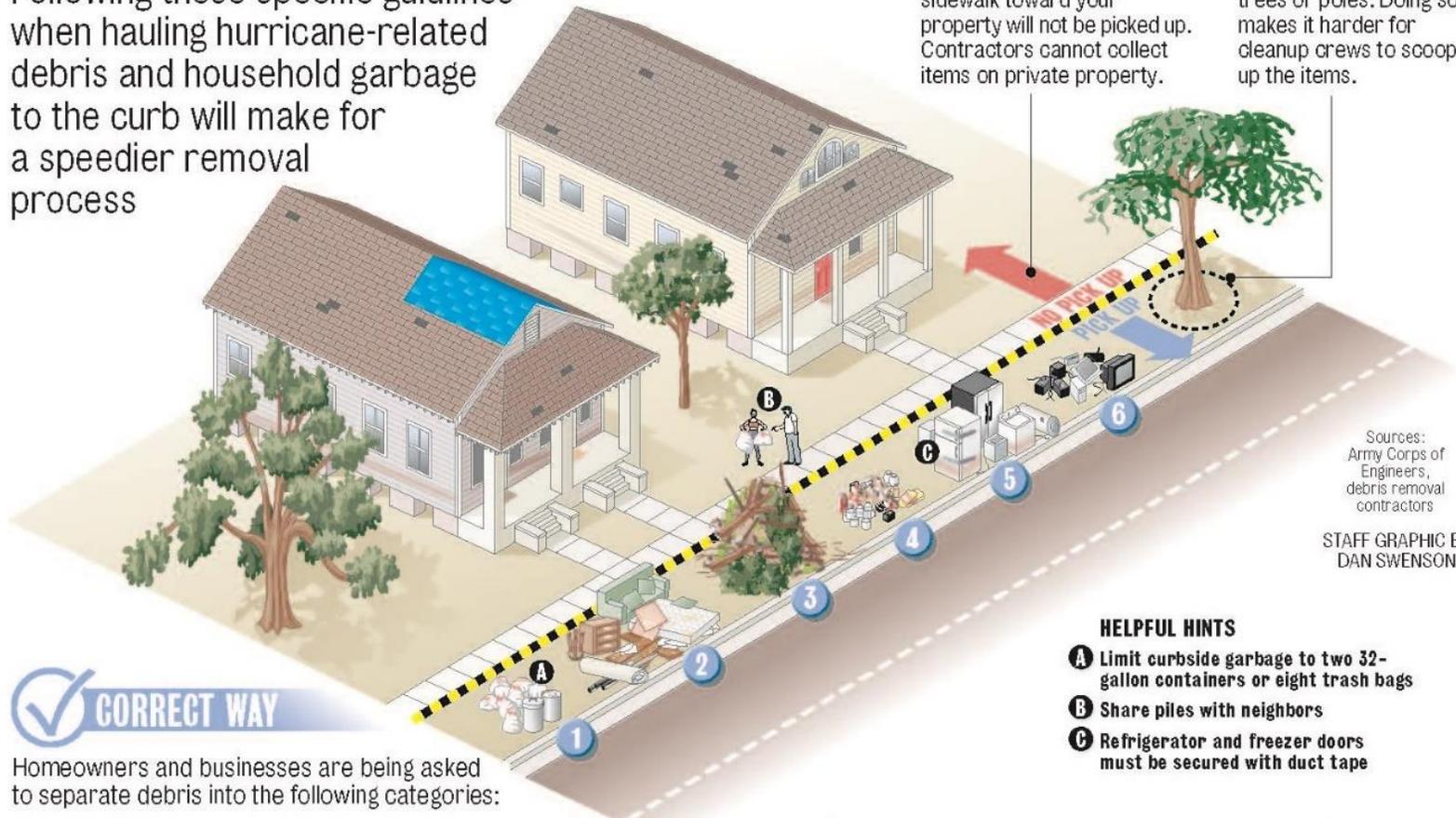
I would like to thank all residents of the parish for your efforts in the recovery and clean up after Hurricane Laura. The Parish has hired a contractor to pick up vegetative debris throughout the Parish. As part of that process, we have learned that DEQ will not allow plastic trash bags to be taken by the contractors to the debris site. We must ask you to empty the bagged debris onto the roadside for pick up. The debris should be piled beside the roadway with all other debris. If the contractors have already been through your area and left the bags, we will have the contractors go back through your area. The contractors will be in the Parish for weeks. If the contractor missed picking up your debris, you may contact us at 318-327-1340 or Volkert.ouachita.debris@gmail.com

Thank you,

Shane Smiley, President
Ouachita Parish Police Jury

PICKING UP THE PIECES

Following these specific guidelines when hauling hurricane-related debris and household garbage to the curb will make for a speedier removal process



CORRECT WAY

Homeowners and businesses are being asked to separate debris into the following categories:

- 1 HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE**
- Bagged trash
 - Discarded food
 - Packaging, papers
 - All garbage should be placed curbside the night before the scheduled weekly pickup.

- 2 CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS**
- Building materials
 - Drywall
 - Lumber
 - Carpet
 - Furniture
 - Mattresses
 - Plumbing

- 3 VEGETATION DEBRIS**
- Tree branches
 - Leaves
 - Logs

- 4 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**
- Oils
 - Batteries
 - Pesticides
 - Paints
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Compressed gas

- 5 'WHITE' GOODS**
- Refrigerators
 - Washers, dryers
 - Freezers
 - Air conditioners
 - Stoves
 - Water heaters
 - Dishwashers

- 6 ELECTRONICS**
- Televisions
 - Computers
 - Radios
 - Stereos
 - DVD players
 - Telephones

WRONG WAY

CROSSING THE LINE

- Any debris placed from the sidewalk toward your property will not be picked up. Contractors cannot collect items on private property.

PROPPING UP

- Do not set debris against trees or poles. Doing so makes it harder for cleanup crews to scoop up the items.

Sources:
Army Corps of Engineers,
debris removal contractors

STAFF GRAPHIC BY
DAN SWENSON

HELPFUL HINTS

- A** Limit curbside garbage to two 32-gallon containers or eight trash bags
- B** Share piles with neighbors
- C** Refrigerator and freezer doors must be secured with duct tape