



# STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

## NEWS RELEASE

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **As Storm Cleanup Begins, Handling and Disposing of Debris a Major Issue, Ohio EPA Director Korleski to visit Millbury on Wednesday**

Amid the tragedy of the weekend's tornado and heavy storms, Northwest Ohioans have begun the difficult process of cleaning up the debris from their homes, businesses and public buildings.

As part of the process, Ohio EPA and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency are working with local officials to guide communities in safe handling and disposal of debris and wastes so that cleanup can be completed and reconstruction can begin as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible.

Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski will visit Millbury on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 to survey the storm-damaged area and to meet with Ohio EPA staff to discuss debris disposal efforts. Director Korleski will be at the Lake Township Fire Station #2 at noon. The fire station is located at 1911 Ayers Road, Millbury, Ohio 43447.

County emergency management agencies have instructions on clearing and staging debris for disposal. Most waste can be taken to a licensed municipal solid waste landfill. Tree limbs and other vegetation may be able to be disposed at compost facilities or chipped and used as mulch. Some waste, when segregated, may qualify as construction and demolition debris (C&DD) which can be disposed in a licensed municipal solid waste landfill or a licensed C&DD landfill. Examples of construction and demolition debris are brick, stone, mortar, asphalt, lumber, wallboard, glass, roofing, metal, piping, fixtures, electrical wiring, heating equipment, insulation, carpeting, railroad ties, utility poles and mobile homes.

For additional guidance and contact information, local government officials may also reference the Debris Fact Sheet for Local Officials at:

[http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/DRB/debris\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Documents/DRB/debris_fact_sheet.pdf)

It is generally illegal to burn debris. Debris from homes and other buildings may contain a number of hazardous materials including asbestos, plastics and other petroleum-based products and chemically treated woods and fibers. When burned, these materials emit toxic fumes that can be significant public health hazards.

Open burning is legal under limited circumstances. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, written permission is required from Ohio EPA. This may take two weeks. (Necessary forms and additional information are online at: [www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx).)

Demolition and recovery efforts also may result in exposures to asbestos. Any building may contain asbestos. Businesses and public buildings are subject to demolition notification requirements. It is important for businesses and public entities to comply with regulatory requirements related to demolition of buildings and the transport and disposal of asbestos-containing material. A fact sheet explaining demolition notification and asbestos requirements can be found at [www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/sb/publications/AsbestosNotification.pdf](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/sb/publications/AsbestosNotification.pdf)

For additional information, contact the local emergency management agency or Ohio EPA's Northwest District Office in Bowling Green at 1-800-686-6930.