

Anchorage to Zero Waste:

Your Guide to Zero Waste in Anchorage

Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services
1111 E. 56th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99518

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Emergency Preparedness

Anchorage has always been about extremes but the past year has given us more than our usual share, from the snowiest winter ever to September's extreme wind events and flooding. Being prepared is the best way to survive such extremes and that means having a plan for before, during, and after an event.

A big part of being prepared is knowing how to clean up. In the event of heavy, damaging winds, you may need to dispose of yard debris and downed trees, damaged roofing material and other debris. This puts extra pressure on the landfill, the transfer stations, and the wood lots, as staff coordinate resources to be sure the facilities are open, accessible, and safe.

Building debris should go directly to the landfill, while trees and brush can go to wood lots typically open between May and September. Excess snow made it impossible to get the Anchorage wood lot open this year at the snow dump site. The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District coordinated with the Mayor's office and Parks and Recreation to find another site for this year's wood lot at the South Anchorage Sports Park, and just in time too! The September wind storms meant rethinking the season closing dates for all three area wood lots as residents struggled to find options for the tons of trees blown down. Be sure to check for extended dates after storms.

And then the rains came. Flooding often generates trash as belongings become damaged in flood waters. Power outages also can leave residents with spoiled food to discard. Spoiled food in your curbside carts can attract animals so be aware of this when planning your clean-up. Special pick-ups are available from your waste hauler if you have more than your carts can hold, or check with the landfill and transfer facilities for hours to drop off. Lines at the Central Transfer Station (CTS) and Anchorage Regional Landfill (ARL) are often long when demand is high and you're usually better off seeking out the alternatives first. Many items can be recycled.

Check the web sites below for tips, checklists, and resources for preparing for and cleaning up after natural disasters and major weather events.

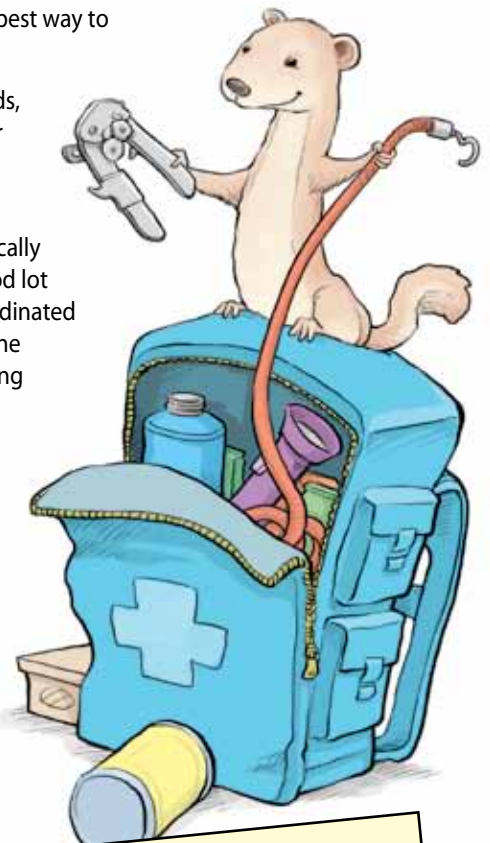
Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management at www.ready.alaska.gov.

Anchorage Emergency Management at www.muni.org/oem or [facebook.com/anchorageoem](https://www.facebook.com/anchorageoem).

Anchorage Fire Department at www.muni.org/fire. Click on Wildfire Mitigation for wood lot information.

Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District at www.aswcd.org for wood lot information.

Anchorage Solid Waste Services at www.muni.org/sws or [facebook.com/anchoragesws](https://www.facebook.com/anchoragesws) for trash disposal and recycling information.



Plan ahead for a power outage. Beyond a portable generator, consider options like residential solar panels or wind turbines to do the same job while also supplementing your power year-round. Several suppliers of these products can be found in southcentral Alaska.

