



Recovery Plan

Appendix 18

Dealing with Waste

Dealing with Waste

Waste is a generic issue which may arise from site clearance, floods or other disasters.

Occasionally waste itself may give rise to an emergency such as a fire or flood in a hazardous waste facility or a build up of rubbish as a result of a Council strike.

Waste can be categorised as hazardous or non-hazardous waste and can be a direct result of an emergency, remedial work or from a clean up operation.

Belfast City Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of household refuse throughout Belfast. The Cleansing Service is responsible for waste collection, street cleansing, domestic refuse, commercial waste and the removal of graffiti.

The DOE deal with severe littering and debris on the carriageways and motorways.

NI Policy and guidance

- Waste should be managed in a way that does not cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health.
- Controlled waste needs to be stored, treated, recovered or disposed of at an appropriately permitted site.
- A householder's domestic waste, which is dealt with within the boundary of their own property, does not need an authorisation as it is not controlled. Commercial and industrial waste is covered by the regulations.
- Information on local waste sites can be found in the environment agency website http://www.nienvironment.gov.uk/waste/public_reg.htm or by ringing the Environment Agency on **08708 506 506**.

Fly Tipping

A license is required for dumping waste and it must be disposed of in designated areas. Fly tipping is illegal and the Council will prosecute if offenders are caught.

Local Authorities:

- have a duty to collect household waste except where the waste is so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collection would be unreasonably high, and the local authority is satisfied that adequate arrangements for its disposal have been made by the holder of the waste.
- are free to choose how they fulfil their waste collection duties including the frequency of the collections, the priority, degree of effort and resources required.
- are entitled but not required to charge for collection of certain types of household waste, including bulky items (articles exceeding 25kg in weight or which cannot be fitted into the usual receptacle for household waste).
- are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities.

The Council work closely with the NIHE and the Roads Service in clearing up waste on a large scale basis. The Council employ a company called RedSky www.redskygroup.com who take the lead on clean ups, the Council assist them but they don't take the lead.

Bulky household waste

Belfast City Council offer a free bulky waste collection service for items which can't be placed in the bin. This includes items such as sofas, cookers, doors,

mattresses and beds and can be arranged by ringing the Customer Support number **028 9027 0230**

Furniture

Local authorities will collect bulky household waste as described above. In addition to this disposal route, other routes exist for household items particularly for furniture that has the potential to be reused. Furniture Re-use network (FRN), is a national body which supports, assists and develops charitable re-use organisations across the UK. There are three centres in Belfast which will collect unwanted, re-usable bulky household items such as electrical goods and furniture. Details of these can be found on the website www.frn.org.uk

Disposal of electrical and electronic equipment must follow the legislation set out in the WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) Directive which was introduced across Europe to help us dispose of our unwanted electrical goods in a responsible way.

Items covered by the new law are those which are powered either by batteries or mains electricity:

- washing machines
- cookers
- computers
- mobile phones
- microwave ovens
- televisions
- toasters

The hazardous parts of these items can be removed and the remaining components recycled.

All of the recycling centres in Belfast accept electrical goods for recycling. Goods in working order may be suitable for reuse. At the recycling centres material is graded and reuseable items are passed on for resale, through either local charities or retailers.

Items which are not suitable for resale are broken up into their components. These parts can then be sent for re-processing.

Fridges and other electrical waste

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) including OFCs and HCFCs must be removed from refrigeration equipment before such items are scraped. For information and how to dispose of fridges visit

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/WhereYouLive/Streetcleaninglitterandillegaldumping/DG_10015935

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste includes anything that could be harmful to human health or to the environment such as:

paint, paint strippers or thinners

solvents

bleach, or other chemical cleaners

garden chemicals

car batteries

engine oil

gas bottles

asbestos. Asbestos is a special waste and should be disposed of by properly trained staff.

Do not take asbestos to a recycling centre or civic amenity centre.

- Take care when handling asbestos, it is a very toxic substance.

- Contact the [Environment and Heritage Service www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk) for a list of companies registered to dispose of hazardous waste, including asbestos. For more advice about asbestos removal please contact our asbestos collection service: **028 9027 0656** or visit the website <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/wastecollections/asbestoswaste.asp>

This is not a definitive list of all hazardous waste. If you are unsure about a type of waste contact the Council for more information on the freephone recycling helpline: **0800 328 8100**

Disposal and collection of animal carcasses

Animal carcasses may be a public health issue. Following incidents such as flooding carcasses can end up in a variety of places including fields, hedgerows, roads, rivers, beaches etc.

Where a carcass is deposited on private land, wherever possible the owner of the carcass should be identified as they are responsible for collection and disposal. If ownership cannot be proven the responsibility rests with the landowner.

Where a carcass is deposited on public land and the ownership of the carcass cannot be ascertained then the local authority is responsible for its disposal.

All such animal carcasses must be disposed of by incineration. Local Animal Health officers can advise on approved collectors and disposers of fallen stock in their area. Details of animal health officers can be found on www.defra.gov.uk

Site clearance

Background and Context

In June 2007 the summer flooding led to a large scale clear up of sites. This clear up involved the City Council, NIHE, Roads Service, Northern Ireland Water and private landowners. Each incident involving a large scale clean up has presented particular challenges and confirmed the need for effective planning and preparation.

Policy and Guidance

In Northern Ireland, there exists a joint protocol to co-ordinate an efficient road clearance response – See appendix 12 “Co-ordination of Road Clearance”

Roles and Responsibilities

Public land requiring site clearance is usually the responsibility of the land owner. The Council will locate the owners and either get them to remove the rubbish or prosecute.

The Council has recently purchased five seater bin lorries which can be used in emergency situations. They assist and work very closely with NIHE, Roads Service and the Water Service in large scale clean up situations.

They also have a Bobcat machine which can quickly clear large scale sites having rubbish or rubble.

For enquires or advice during office hours the number is **028 9027 0230**

There is Out of Hours Helpline also available **07850 499 622**. A duty officer is available on this helpline and it is open through the night, weekends and bank holidays.

List of Contacts

A number of other government organisations may have a role to play during a site clearance operation. These include DEFRA www.defra.gov.uk, Environment Agency (EA) www.ni-environment.gov.uk , Roads Service www.roadsni.gov.uk Northern Ireland Water www.niwater.com and Government Offices.

Strategic co-ordination arrangements in Northern Ireland are defined within Annex D of '[A Guide to Emergency Planning Arrangements in Northern Ireland](http://cepu.nics.gov.uk/pubs/emerplanarrange.pdf) <http://cepu.nics.gov.uk/pubs/emerplanarrange.pdf>

Funding

In the case of accidental or malicious damage, the costs of site clearance would normally fall on the party responsible for causing the damage. In the case of damage through natural causes, responsibility for costs would normally be expected to rest with the owner or occupier of a property.

District Councils in Northern Ireland are able to apply for funding from the Department of the Environment in certain circumstances - 'Schemes of Emergency Financial Assistance to District Councils' can be found on www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/lg_funding/circulars.htm

Environmental Pollution and Decontamination

Background and Context

Recovery strategies need to take account of the environmental pollution and decontamination issues which can arise during an emergency. Examples of incidents involving both recovery and environmental pollution/decontamination included the Buncefield fire, the Polonium-210 incident and Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) exercises.

Marine Incidents

HM Coastguard, within MCA, is responsible for co-ordinating all civilian Search and Rescue at sea and on the coast. MCA protects the UK interests and maritime environment through counter pollution and counter pollution prevention activities. Pollution can result from spills from ships cargoes or leaks from gas/oil installations or pipelines.

As a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Kingdom has an obligation to protect and preserve the Marine Environment. The National Contingency Plan (produced by MCA) is one of the measures the UK has taken to meet this obligation. The Environment and Heritage Service are major players in inshore counter pollution.

DETI requires operators who have offshore installations to have an Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The MCA have published advice in the Oil Spill

Contingency Plan – Guidelines for Ports, Harbours and Oil handling facilities. This can be found under the national plan in the website www.mcga.gov.uk

The Port of Belfast can be contacted on **028 90 554422** or information can be found on the website www.belfast-harbour.co.uk

Water

The Environment and Heritage Service www.ehsni.gov.uk deal with water pollution. Their helpline is **0800 80 70 60** which should be used to report all **urgent** water pollution incidents.

During office hours the call will be dealt with from the Headquarters in Lisburn. Outside normal hours, calls are diverted to the Environment Agency where details of your call are logged then passed to the Duty Emergency Pollution Officer in Northern Ireland.

It is an offence to cause pollution, either deliberately or accidentally. If a pollution incident is reported or discovered in the course of daily work, the Pollution Response Team aim to locate and stop the source of the pollution, identify the polluter and if appropriate, collect sufficient evidence to secure a prosecution.

- Where the source of pollution can be traced, the Enforcement Team decides on the appropriate course of action to take. This may include an enforcement notice or instigation of prosecution proceedings.

Water (NI) Order 1999 places a duty on the DOE to protect waterways from pollution through the EHS. It also provides the department with powers to remove polluting matter where appropriate.