

# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Land Management Administration • Solid Waste Program

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## **Supplemental Guidance for the Emergency Burning of Poultry and Livestock Houses or Manure Storage Structures Due to the Recent Snowstorms – February 25, 2010**

The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) regulatory guidance specifies that building materials are demolition debris and must be transported to a permitted disposal facility for disposal once the weather clears. However, due to the extreme nature of the recent snow storms, MDE has determined that the County Government or Health Department for the County in which the structure is located may issue a permit for in place burning of poultry and other livestock shelters and manure storage structures that suffered structural collapse during the heavy snowstorms of February 2010, subject to the following conditions:

1. The building must be damaged, and the damage must have occurred during the snowstorms of February 2010.
2. All animal carcasses must be segregated from the debris to be burned, and managed in accordance with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) guidance fact sheet that can be found on the MDE website at [http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/MDE\\_LMA\\_AnimalHouseMgmt\\_collapsed\\_buildings.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/MDE_LMA_AnimalHouseMgmt_collapsed_buildings.pdf) , and Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) guidance for managing animal carcasses (e.g., disposal at a permitted landfill, composted, etc.) referenced in the cited MDE fact sheet.
3. Non-combustible materials such as steel reinforcing and masonry must be removed from the debris to be burned to the extent possible. Due to the higher concentrations of toxic chemicals, preserved lumber may not be burned, and must be segregated and disposed of properly.
4. The County Government or Health Department for the County in which the structure is located must issue a burn permit for the activity, and is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of this approval are met (Note: If you are located in Caroline County, please call MDE Eastern Shore Regional Office at 410-713-3680 for approval). The County Health Department must include conditions in the burning permit that state the following:
  - a) That by accepting the permit, the landowner grants authorization to the County and MDE to verify that the conditions of the permit and other environmental laws and regulations have been complied with; and
  - b) That if burning occurs under the terms of the permit, that constitutes acceptance of the conditions of the permit.
5. The burning of the structure must occur by March 21, 2010, unless this deadline is extended by MDE. The permittee is responsible for insuring that the activity is performed in accordance with the provisions of the burn permit.
6. The ash from the combustion of building demolition debris and animal manure that may have been present in the structure is likely to contain a variety of pollutants, including soluble salts, metals and organic substances that have been created or concentrated by the volume reduction that occurred when the material burned. Therefore, all burned material, including ash and partially burned residuals must be removed for disposal at a disposal site acceptable to the

Department, for example, a permitted municipal or rubble landfill. A list of permitted refuse disposal facilities is available on the MDE website at [http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/Solid\\_Waste/facilities/index.asp](http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/Solid_Waste/facilities/index.asp) . Failure to properly dispose of the ash and burned residuals may be grounds for MDE to take enforcement action.

7. Clean concrete derived from the foundation may be considered to be clean fill, and may be buried or recycled. Metal and other residuals are not considered to be clean fill and must be managed appropriately.

8. The County Health Department that issues a burn permit for a structure covered under this approval must notify MDE of the locations of the structures to be burned by faxing a copy of the permit to the Solid Waste Program at 410-537-3842 (fax #) and the MDE Eastern Shore Regional Office at 410-713-3681 (fax #).