

Clearing Debris

- ◆ Landowners are responsible for clearing debris from their own property after a disaster.
- ◆ Contact your city or county government to find out about recycling programs and the schedule for debris pickup.

Using a chain saw

- ◆ Use a sharp saw. Follow the sharpening and maintenance instructions.
- ◆ Wear protective gear, including sturdy, non-slip gloves; high-top boots with nonslip soles (and preferably with steel toes); and a hard hat with face and hearing protection.
- ◆ Make sure the saw has an anti-kickback device. Cut with the lower part of the saw blade, not the tip or nose.
- ◆ Fill a gas-powered chain saw only when the engine is cool. If the saw runs out of gas, let it cool 30 minutes before refueling.
- ◆ Know your saw and how to operate it before you use it. Read and understand the operator's manual.
- ◆ Be sure the chain saw is in good working order. The saw should be sharp and the chain should fit snugly but not be too tight. Make sure all the nuts and screws are tight and all parts are well lubricated. Do not use a saw that doesn't have a working safety mechanism.
- ◆ Before starting the engine, make sure the chain is not contacting anything. Never let the saw rest on your leg or knee when starting the engine.
- ◆ Shut off the motor when you are not using the saw, even if you are moving only a few feet.
- ◆ Always work with a buddy, but never allow someone else to hold the wood while you cut.
- ◆ Do not work near electric power lines. Leave extensive pruning around power lines to the power company.

Pruning

- ◆ Be careful of electric power lines. Leave extensive pruning around power lines to power companies. Do not use pruning equipment with metal handles.

Bulldozing

- ◆ If you will use a bulldozer to remove stumps, leave stumps 6 to 10 feet high for leverage. If you will use a stump grinder, remove the trees at ground level.
- ◆ If possible, attach a rake to the front of the bulldozer so most of the soil will pass through the teeth. This eliminates undesirable mounds of soil.

Disposing of debris

- ◆ **Burying debris** can be expensive. Use a chipping machine to eliminate smaller branches and reduce the amount of burial space needed.
- ◆ **Landfilling** involves placing tree debris in erosion gullies, swamps or low-lying areas. Consult a water resource specialist to determine how landfilling will alter the water flow. A bulldozer or other large equipment will be needed because it is dangerous to use a tractor to push debris into gullies.
- ◆ **Burning** is another option. But wait until the weather improves. Even after much rain, the fire danger may still be high, and a burn ban may be in effect.
 - Let the tree debris dry until the leaves begin to fall.
 - Then put the debris in large, compact piles and cover the piles with fuel oil.
 - Stoke the fires to keep them burning until all woody material is burned. In some areas, you may need a permit to burn debris.

