

storm debris removed



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AMERICUS — As people continue the cleanup process from Hurricane Michael, the Americus city council voted unanimously Monday to waive permit fees for 120 days, and to have storm debris removed for the next 30 days. But the debris collection has caveats.

Larry Riner, city Public Works director, gave some guidelines for debris collection, all of which are part of the city's code of ordinances.

- Small debris such as small limbs, pine cones, pine straw and leaves can be collected and placed at the curb of the residence for collection.
- Limbs and yard trimmings cannot exceed 5 inches in diameter and can be no more than 5 ft. long.
- Limbs and yard trimmings measuring from 5 to 12 inches in diameter must be cut to no more than 1 ft. long.
- No limbs or yard trimmings larger than 12 inches in diameter will be picked up by the city or any entity the city has contracted.
- Yard trimmings and limbs from vacant lots will be picked up, but only when such debris is generated from the vacant lot.
- Yard waste bags or containers must be placed at least 6 ft. away from vehicles, trees, poles, fences, mailboxes, fire hydrants, low-hanging trees, limbs, branches, power lines, guy wires, or other obstructions.
- Lawn services and contractors are responsible for bagging the yard waste and other waste they generate and disposing of it.
- Grass clippings, weeds, leaves, and other small yard waste materials must be bagged or placed in a container with a lid prior to being placed on the curb for pickup.
- Yard waste bags may be placed in the right of way, the street pavement or in roadside ditches as long as the flow of water or flow of traffic is not inhibited or changed.
- It is unlawful to place or mix yard trimmings with municipal solid waste within the city.
- It is unlawful to dump any solid waste on any property, in any waters or in any storm water collection system.
- It is unlawful to place any litter, trash, trees, grass, or other rubbish over or within 5 ft. of a storm drain, drop inlet, culvert or manhole.
- No person shall leave outside any building or in a place accessible to children any appliance, refrigerator, freezer, or other container which has an airtight snap lock or similar device without first removing the door.

The city, which is contracted with Advance Disposal for garbage collection, will use a subcontractor which specializes in storm debris collection, F5 Hauling, at a cost of \$20 per cubic yard. The city will be reimbursed for 75 percent of the cost by FEMA for all debris removed within