

County Connection for Week of 09/12/2018
By David Smitherman
Pittsylvania County Administrator

Hurricane Florence is quickly bearing down on the East Coast. All of the projections are predicting that it will make its way ashore in the Carolinas, and move its way up through Virginia. Danville and Pittsylvania County are expected to get hit, so we thought we would take advantage of this opportunity to talk to you about what to do with storm debris.

The term storm debris applies to any trees and brush that comes down during the storm, as well as some home goods. Storms like hurricanes tend to bring down trees, knock out power lines, cause flooding and damage our homes. When it comes to clean up, that can cause major problems for the solid waste system. Our convenience and green box sites are not equipped to handle brush and trees. Brush and trees are bulky and difficult to transport, and cannot be mixed with household garbage, which is why they need to be taken directly to the landfill in Dry Fork. We already anticipate that our drivers will be hard at work helping to clean up after the storm. We don't want to make their work more difficult, and our process more expensive, by asking them to haul load after load of storm debris.

If a local disaster is declared after the storm, tipping fees will be waived for all storm debris brought to the landfill. We hope this will allow all of our citizens to clean up whatever damage Florence may wreak upon their homes and yards. This is the same process that the Board of Supervisors followed after the tornado damaged parts of the County in April. You have questions about whether something is storm debris or not, call the landfill at (434) 432-7980 and Vicky Medford will be able to answer any questions you might have.

You should also know that the landfill is now open on Saturdays from 8 AM to noon and may experience extended hours depending on the Florence's impact.

Our cameras are still rolling, so if we do catch people dumping large amounts of brush, we will be looking for them. Please make sure that all of your neighbors have the same ability to dump their regular garbage, and respect the solid waste ordinance's policy on brush. You can help us keep an eye out for people dumping illegally at pittsylvania.landfill.com, and help us make sure your sites are the best they can be.

Finally, here's my question for you, which I am asking at the end of each article I write. Is there something you'd like to see us change? Do you have suggestions for what we should add to our convenience centers to make your experience better? We want to know!