

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ASSAM SACHIVALAYA :: ANCILLARY BLOCK :: DISPUR ::
GUWAHATI - 06.

No. ECF. 822390/1
Dated: 30-07-2026

Guideline on post-disaster debris management

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority is hereby pleased to inform that the following guideline on post-disaster debris management has been prepared for the State .

1. Background:

Flooding caused by heavy rainfall, rising river levels, drainage congestion and overflow of rivers and tributaries may leave substantial quantities of debris in affected areas. Such debris may include mud and silt, fallen trees, vegetation, damaged household materials, construction and demolition waste, plastics, spoiled food, agricultural waste, e-waste, animal carcasses and hazardous materials.

Effective debris management is essential for restoring access, essential services, public health and normalcy in flood-affected areas.

2. Objective:

The guideline aims to:

1. Establish a coordinated mechanism for post-flood debris management.
2. Ensure rapid clearance of roads and access routes.
3. Restore access to affected habitations and essential services.
4. Minimize public health and environmental risks.
5. Ensure safe management of animal carcasses and hazardous waste.
6. Promote segregation, reuse, recycling and recovery wherever feasible.
7. Ensure safe disposal of residual debris.
8. Define roles and responsibilities of concerned departments and agencies.
9. Facilitate efficient deployment of manpower, machinery and vehicles.
10. Ensure proper monitoring, documentation and reporting.

3. Geographical and operational coverage:

The guideline shall apply to all flood-affected Revenue Circles, Urban Local Bodies, Gaon Panchayats and villages within the disaster affected districts. Priority locations shall be identified through rapid post-flood assessment by the concerned DDMA.

4. Institutional Arrangement:

4.1 District Level

The Deputy Commissioner and Chairperson, DDMA, shall have overall responsibility for coordination. A **District Flood Debris Management Nodal Officer** shall be designated for day-to-day coordination.

The DDMA shall:

- Activate the debris management mechanism after recession of floodwaters.
- Conduct rapid assessment and identify priority areas.
- Mobilize manpower, machinery and vehicles.
- Coordinate with line departments, ULBs and local authorities.
- Identify temporary debris collection sites.
- Monitor collection, transportation, processing and disposal.
- Ensure health, safety and environmental safeguards.

4.2 Revenue Circle Level:

The Circle Officer shall coordinate activities within the Revenue Circle, including identification of affected areas, reporting of debris, prioritization of access routes, coordination with Gaon Panchayats and monitoring of collection and transportation.

4.3 Urban Local Bodies Level:

ULBs shall manage debris within urban areas, including collection, temporary storage, segregation, and transportation, recycling/processing and safe disposal, while preventing unauthorized dumping.

4.5 Gaon Panchayats Level:

Gaon Panchayats shall identify village-level debris, mobilize communities, facilitate segregation at source, report hazardous materials and animal carcasses, support awareness activities and coordinate with the Circle Administration.

5. District Flood Debris Management Team

The DDMA shall constitute a District Flood Debris Management Team with representatives from relevant agencies, including:

- District Administration/DDMA
- Revenue Circle Administration
- PWD/Road agencies
- Panchayat & Rural Development
- ULBs
- PHED
- Health & Family Welfare
- Animal Husbandry & Veterinary
- Forest & Environment
- Agriculture
- Pollution Control Board, as required
- SDRF/NDRF, where required
- Civil Defence
- Aapda Mitras, DDRF, CQRTs and community volunteers

- NGOs/CSOs and other relevant agencies

6. Activation of guideline:

The guideline shall be activated when:

- Floodwaters begin to recede and access becomes possible;
- Significant debris accumulation is identified;
- Roads, bridges or drainage systems are obstructed;
- Critical infrastructure is affected; or
- Public health and environmental risks emerge.

7. Rapid Post-Flood Debris Assessment

As soon as conditions permit, the District Flood Debris Management Team shall assess:

- Extent of affected areas;
- Locations and types of debris;
- Approximate quantity of debris;
- Blocked roads, bridges and drainage;
- Affected public infrastructure;
- Fallen trees and vegetation;
- Animal carcasses and hazardous materials;
- Availability of manpower, machinery and vehicles; and
- Requirement for temporary collection and disposal sites.

GPS, GIS, drone imagery and mobile-based reporting may be used where feasible.

7. Priority of Debris Clearance

Priority 1 - Emergency Access	Priority 2 - Critical Infrastructure	Priority 3 - Public Health Risk Areas	Priority 4 - Community Areas	Priority 5 - Private Premises
• Roads and bridges required for emergency response; • Access to affected villages; • Routes to relief camps, hospitals and health facilities.	• Drinking water facilities; • Electricity and communication infrastructure; • Health facilities; • Schools used as relief shelters; • Relief and public distribution facilities.	• Animal carcasses; • Contaminated waste; • Blocked drains; • Spoiled food; • Sewage and sanitation-related waste.	• Village roads; • Markets; • Public spaces and community facilities.	• Residential and commercial properties; • Agricultural areas and other locations.

8. Debris Management:

Mud, Silt and sand	Fallen Trees and Vegetation	Dead Animals	Hazardous Materials	Household Waste and Damaged Materials
• Clear from roads, bridges, schools, health facilities, markets, drainage and critical infrastructure. • Ensure the site is safe before clearance. • Do not dump silt in rivers or drainage channels. • Contaminated silt shall not be reused without assessment. • Suitable clean sediment may be reused where technically appropriate. • Transport debris	• Remove obstructions from roads, bridges, electricity lines, drainage channels and critical infrastructure. • Coordinate with the Forest Department where required. • Vegetative debris may be chipped, composted, converted to biomass or reused where permissible.	• Immediately report to the Circle Administration and Veterinary Department. • Restrict public access and use appropriate PPE. • Collect and transport carcasses safely. • Dispose of them as advised by the competent Veterinary/Public Health authority. • Select disposal	• Hazardous materials such as pesticides, fuel, oil, LPG cylinders, batteries, chemicals, medical waste, asbestos-containing materials and contaminated materials shall be: • Identified and isolated; • Handled only by trained personnel; • Temporarily stored in safe locations; and • Transported to authorized disposal facilities. Hazardous waste shall never be mixed with ordinary flood debris.	• Households and local authorities should segregate debris into: • Reusable materials; • Recyclable materials; • Organic waste; • E-waste; • Hazardous waste; and • Residual waste. • Waste shall not be dumped in rivers, drains, ponds, wetlands, roadsides or other unauthorized locations.

only to designate locations.		al site s away from drinking water sources. • Do not dump carcasses in rivers, ponds, wetlands or drains. • Follow guidelines as per SOP issued by AAS DMA for this purpose	
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9. Debris Collection and Storage Sites:

Temporary debris collection sites shall:

- Be accessible to vehicles;
- Be away from drinking water sources;
- Not obstruct drainage;
- Not be located in natural flood channels;
- Minimize risk to nearby communities;
- Allow segregation and further processing; and
- Be cleaned and restored after completion of operations.

10. Transportation of Debris:

During transportation:

- Use suitable vehicles for the type of debris.
- Secure loads properly.
- Transport hazardous materials separately.
- Plan safe and efficient routes.
- Prohibit unauthorized dumping.
- Maintain transportation records where required.
- Clean or decontaminate vehicles when necessary.

11. Final Disposal:

Priority shall be given to **reuse, recycling and recovery** wherever feasible. Residual debris shall be transported to approved processing or disposal facilities in accordance with applicable environmental and waste management requirements.

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Dumping debris in rivers or wetlands;
- Blocking drainage channels;
- Dumping near drinking water sources;
- Unauthorized dumping in forest areas; and
- Open burning of mixed flood debris.

12. Health and Safety:

First aid facilities shall be available at major debris clearance sites.

All workers and volunteers involved in debris clearance shall be provided with appropriate PPE, including:	Workers shall be sensitized regarding:
• Gloves; • Gumboots/safety footwear; • Masks; • Safety helmets; • Reflective jackets; and • Protective clothing.	Personnel shall be sensitized regarding contaminated floodwater, snakes and other animals, electrical hazards, sharp objects, unstable structures, hazardous chemicals and biological contamination. First-aid facilities shall be available at major debris clearance sites.

13. Monitoring and Reporting

The District Flood Debris Management Nodal Officer shall maintain records of:

- Locations cleared;
- Type and estimated quantity of debris removed;
- Manpower, machinery and vehicles deployed;
- Quantity reused/recycled and disposed;
- Hazardous waste and animal carcasses handled;
- Expenditure incurred; and
- Photographic documentation.

14. Cost of Operations

As per extant NDRF and SDRF guidelines, norms for clearance of debris in public areas, draining off of flood water in affected areas and disposal of dead bodies and carcasses is as per actual cost, based on actual cost within 30 days from the date of start of work, based on assessment of need by SEC for assistance to be provided under SDRF

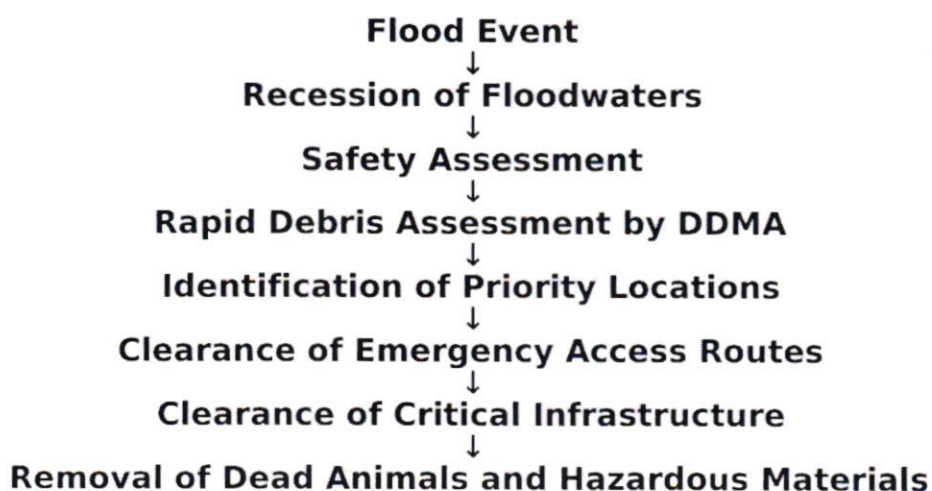
15. Completion of Operations

Operations shall be considered complete when priority access routes and critical infrastructure are cleared, public health hazards are addressed, animal carcasses and hazardous materials are safely removed, major debris accumulation points are cleared, and temporary collection sites are emptied, cleaned and restored.

15. Roles and Responsibilities of agencies:

Agency	Key Responsibility
DDMA,	Overall coordination and monitoring
Circle Administration	Local assessment, coordination and reporting
ULBs	Urban debris collection, transportation and disposal
Gaon Panchayats	Village-level coordination and community mobilization
PWD/Road Agencies	Clearance of roads and bridges
PHED	Clearance/restoration of water infrastructure
Power Department	Safe clearance around electrical infrastructure
Forest Department	Fallen trees and vegetation
Health Department	Public health and sanitation guidance
Veterinary Department	Animal carcass management
Agriculture Department	Guidance on agricultural debris and contaminated materials
Pollution Control Board	Environmental compliance
SDRF/NDRF	Specialized response and technical support
Civil Defence/Aapda Mitras	Community-level support
NGOs/CSOs	Community engagement and awareness
Contractors/Private Agencies	Machinery, manpower and transportation

16. Operational Flow:





17. Conclusion

The concerned DDMAAs shall operationalize this guideline based on the scale and severity of flooding and the volume and nature of debris generated. Effective coordination among district administration, line departments, local authorities, response forces and communities shall be ensured for rapid restoration of access, essential services, public health and normalcy in flood-affected areas.

Memo ECF No. 822390/1 -A

Dated 30-07-2026

Copy to :

1. The PS to the Additional Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam for kind appraisal of HCM.
2. The all District Commissioner and Chairman DDMAAs for information and necessary action.
3. The Staff Officer to the Chief Secretary, Assam for kind appraisal.
4. The all Co-District Commissioners for kind information and necessary action.
5. The all CEO, DDMAAs for kind information and necessary action.

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