

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

July 2, 2021

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As Palm Beach County is in the cone of uncertainty for Hurricane Elsa, now is not the time to do major yard work or begin construction projects.

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County asks all county residents:

- Not to cut down trees or do major yard work.
- Not to begin construction projects that produce debris.
- Not to place more than the six (6) cubic yard limit of yard waste from normal yard maintenance per week at the curb.

Once a Watch or Warning has been issued:

- Do not trim vegetation of any kind.
- Do not take materials to the curb, transfer stations or landfill. Services may be suspended and facilities closed early to prepare for the storm.

While SWA facilities are expected to operate as normal through the weekend, should the predicted storm's path head toward Palm Beach County, the SWA cannot guarantee debris pickup.

There is not enough manpower, equipment or hours in the day to collect and dispose of large amounts of debris when a storm is nearing landfall. Once wind speeds increase, high-profile trucks cannot safely be on the road. The SWA and the haulers must prepare their own facilities and equipment to safely weather the approaching storm.

The SWA is working with the PBC Emergency Operations Center to monitor the storm's potential path to make a determination on any facility closures or cancelled garbage, recyclables and yard waste collections in the unincorporated parts of the county. But, we need the help of every resident for the efficient removal of debris leading up to and after the storm.

For additional information on debris collection in unincorporated parts of Palm Beach County, contact SWA Customer Information Services at 561-697-2700 or 866-792-4636 (toll-free), or visit [SWA.org/Hurricane](https://www.swa.org/Hurricane).

Residents living within city boundaries should call their local municipality for their bulk collection guidelines. Check the SWA website for [municipal contact information](#).

Helpful hurricane resources:

- Learn how to prepare your family by visiting [ReadyPBC.org](https://www.readyPBC.org).
- Get the [PBC Dart app](#) on your smart phone.
- Watch a short video from the SWA for tips on [hurricane safety](#).
- Learn about [SWA collection priorities after a storm](#).
- Learn more from the [National Hurricane Center](#).

- Learn more from the [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#).

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About the SWA

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- *Process more than 90,000 tons of [recyclables](#) each year*
- *Combust approximately 1.8 million tons of trash each year to generate electricity at [renewable energy facilities](#)*
- *Produce enough electricity to power approximately 74,000 homes*
- *Recycle more than 150,000 tons of [wastewater treatment residuals](#) (sludge from flushes) into environmentally-friendly fertilizer*
- *Safely dispose of more than 4.2 million pounds of [home hazards](#) a year*
- *Collect water off of the roofs of [Renewable Energy Facility 2](#) and store it in a 2 million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process*

Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County - [SWA.org](#)

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most communications to or from the Solid Waste Authority are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.