



MEDIA RELEASE

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Storm Debris Drop-off Sites Still Available in Lake County

May 25, 2017 – Downed trees and branches from the July 12, 2016 windstorm do not disappear by themselves. Homeowners, businesses and contractors are still working to improve safety and aesthetics, and to reduce wildfire risk by removing woody storm debris from their property.

“Our partnerships with the Township, DNR and USFS to maintain community debris sites still are helpful to residents cleaning up brush and debris,” said BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Manager. “The public and contractors have mostly been very good at keeping their debris clean and small enough to be burned or chipped, which helps conserve space and reduce wildfire risk.”

The community debris sites at gravel pits listed below were open last summer and fall. Please check their current status, since only a few are still open for residential debris. This list includes only those in Lake County.

- **Fall Lake Township Transfer Station is open** for public woody brush and debris (less than 6” diameter) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8am-4pm.
- **USFS Snowbank pit will remain open** for public and contractors, but **ONLY** for woody debris less than 6” diameter and less than 4’ long.
- **DNR Cloquet Line pit remains open until July 24, 2017** based upon Lake County’s special use permit with the DNR, also only for woody debris less than 6” diameter. Clean machinery, equipment, and boots are requested to reduce the spread of invasive plant species.
- Fall Lake / Lake County (Hunt) pit behind the Fall Lake Town hall is **closed** to public debris.
- Lake County Glipe pit is **closed** to the public since the County currently does not have resources to manage public debris.
- USFS Moose and Ojibway pits are **closed** because they are full.

Note that Lake County is under a gypsy moth quarantine, which means no woody debris can be transferred from Lake to St. Louis County. Remember only clean vegetation is allowed in the debris sites. Do not dump root wads or soil. All sites are monitored for illegal dumping. Report illegal dumping to the Lake County Sheriff's Office (218-834-8385).

Burning of woody debris on site (with DNR permit) is another option for some homeowners. The USFS has a brochure with tips on “Hand Piling Woody Debris for Burning.” Contact the USFS at 218-365-7600 for more information.

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