



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What to Do with All that Brush?

As the ice and snow slowly melt away, the full magnitude of devastated landscapes becomes painfully clear. The heavy snow and ice rain that covered the area for four days toppled trees, broke limbs and bowed bushes.

Eugene Public Works is still responding to hundreds of reports of trees and branches on local streets. When crews have finished cleaning up streets, they'll start cleaning up the mess in city parks. Most of the material in the public rights of way is chipped to become mulch. Large pieces of wood are cut into shorter lengths and chipped later. Occasionally a piece may be large enough to be used as material for lumber. Any wood left in the right of way after the tree crew finishes clearing streets is free for the taking until crews return for cleanup.

So what can private property owners do with the debris left on their properties after the storm?

One thing they can't do is place debris in the street. The city code prohibits placing any material in the street except leaves (and that's only during leaf season). Here are some options:

- Use a pickup truck or trailer to haul debris to a commercial recycler such as Rexius or Lane Forest Products (a small tipping fee is charged).
- Hire a tree service or landscaping company to clean up and haul debris away.
- Chop twigs and wood debris into small pieces and fill yard debris containers.
- Rent, borrow or buy a chipping machine and make mulch for garden paths or other soft surfaces.
- Compost leafy green material.

For more information, call Public Works Maintenance at 541-682-4800.

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