



# WISCONSIN DISASTER 4343



## Environmental/Historic Preservation and Disaster Recovery



FEMA's Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) program can help your community build back stronger, while preserving resources and protecting from future hazards.

Federal laws require all federal agencies consider their effects on natural and cultural resources before spending money.

The information and provided here will help your community avoid funding delays, while staying compliant with these laws. But this provides only a snapshot of the many laws and requirements for environmental clearance of FEMA Public Assistance projects.

Nicholas Mueller leads our EHP unit for this region. Feel free to contact him, the Wisconsin Emergency Management, or FEMA Public Assistance with any questions you might have regarding environmental or historic concerns at the number or email listed below.

[Nicholas.Mueller@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Mueller@fema.dhs.gov)  
(312) 852-1584

Some projects can start without detailed review:

- Emergency Protective Actions
- Debris removal
- Repairs to pre-disaster condition or temporary repairs (unless 50 years old or older)

Some projects require more detailed environmental review:

- Debris disposal
- Projects that change a facility from its pre-disaster condition
- **Hazard mitigation projects**
- Projects affecting threatened/endangered species, wetlands or floodplains

Some projects require review and consultation:

- **Improved/Alternate projects**
- Projects with the potential to significantly impact the environment

## Historic Structures and Archaeology

Any structure **50 years old or older** may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. These resources (including buildings, bridges, culverts) must be reviewed by FEMA and the WI State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Projects involving **ground disturbance** outside previously disturbed footprint (including facility realignment, borrow areas, utility burial, utility pole replacement, access roads, etc.) may require archaeological review prior to construction.



## Debris Disposal

Applicants must follow guidance provided by the Wisconsin DNR and complete a Debris Management Self Certification Form for any debris project. Temporary debris storage outside licensed landfills, requires approval from the WI DNR.

Burning demolition material or using an air curtain burner requires a permit from WI DNR. Check with local DNR contacts on burning vegetative debris requirements.

**Debris removal guidance is available on the WI DNR web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/>**

Avoid Delays!  
Always Provide:

- Complete Scope of Work
- Exact Location(s)
- Date of Construction



New Ground Disturbance

All new ground disturbance must be reviewed by FEMA and the WI State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) **BEFORE** construction.

*Note that agricultural fields are not considered previously disturbed.*

Projects involving **ground disturbance** outside previously disturbed areas (as can happen during facility realignment, utility burial, utility pole replacement, creation of temporary access roads, etc.) will likely require an archaeological survey prior to construction.

Notify EHP ASAP:

- Improved Projects
- Alternate Projects
- New Construction
- Large Mitigation Proposals

Other Laws and Executive Orders:  
Threatened and Endangered Species

All counties included in DR-4343-WI contain threatened and endangered species.

Applicants should contact experts at FEMA, WI DNR or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who can help determine if any listed species or their habitat are potentially present.



Indiana Bat

Work in Water: Culverts and Bridges



Projects involving proposed or completed work in a waterway, **must** include documentation of contact with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Either a copy of a permit or letter from DNR indicating no permit is required will be required before project closeout.

Borrow

To meet federal requirements, all borrow must come from licensed facilities or regularly-maintained stockpiles. Contact EHP if non-licensed sources of borrow will be used.

