These are suggested guidelines for cleanup of small debris in livestock fields. These guidelines should be disregarded if other official protocols are released.

**PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:** Human health and safety are paramount!

**SECONDARY OBJECTIVE:** Safely remove storm debris from fields to reduce the risk to humans and animals

**OFFICIAL PERSONNEL:**
(Helps if you have brightly colored hats or coats or vests so people can easily point you out to others!)

**PROJECT LEADER (incident commander)**
* Oversees the cleanup effort, makes decisions of cleanup procedures (have pickup truck follow volunteers, or have them fill up garbage bags and filled bags grouped in fields for later pickup—geography and soil conditions will be factors)
* Stays at the base of operations (meeting point)
* Has communications with field team leaders and field safety officers and each team in the field (test cell phones or radios before starting cleanup!)
* Has communications to 9-1-1

(Read notes at end of this document.)

Overview pastures: what types of materials are there; are there areas of high concentrations of debris where it makes more sense to pile debris in several areas vs picking things up as you go? Where will debris be piled after removal from the pasture?

Obviously any downed electrical lines should be removed by trained personnel/experts/authorized individuals prior to anyone going into a pasture; animals should not be loose. NO PETS should be allowed (they’ll step on metal and require first aid).

Be careful not to have too many things going on at once, such as a team cutting wood with chain saws and a team dealing with insulation and multiple people in multiple fields doing debris removal. Stay focused and do not have one leader oversee dozens of people without assistance of other supervisors! You are overseeing volunteers in a hazardous materials environment! Remember Incident Command training!

IF there is insulation in fields, refer to Insulation Team below which should bag up insulation prior to general debris removal.

**Field team leader** (may have several if the volunteer groups are large)
* Reports to Project Leader
* Oversees operations in the pasture (don’t let people get too spread out!)
* Asks questions of the Project Leader if unusual situations come up
* Coordinates with field safety officer
LEAD SAFETY OFFICER
* Has the best safety and first aid training
* Stays at the base of operations (meeting point)
* Is the person whom everyone must check out with prior to leaving (may have helpers for this checkout process)
* Shall have communications with each field team leader and safety officer in the field
* Has communications to 9-1-1 if there is an emergency
* Has first aid kit
* Monitors ongoing weather conditions (if you hear thunder, people can be struck by lightning!)
* Anticipates issues such as hypothermia, hyperthermia, sunburn, exhaustion, etc.
* Can call mandatory breaks for rest, water, snacks, bathroom breaks

Field Safety Officer
* Oversees peoples’ safety in the field (does not do debris removal—eyes are roving for safety issues).
* Who is getting tired, flushed, out of breath? Who is bleeding but not wanting to tell anyone? You should be willing to intervene and tactfully ask people if they are OK, and if not, get the resources to get the person to medical professionals.
* Has the field first aid kit and responds to basic first aid issues

Resource volunteer
* In charge of obtaining drinking water, bananas or oranges (for potassium) and other snacks for volunteers
* If a vehicle is going out in the field with volunteers, water and snacks should be in the truck as well

VOLUNTEERS
All volunteers:
  * **have to** be up to date on tetanus vaccinations;
  * have sturdy **heavy** boots (with ankle support) – these must be closed toed shoes (NO tennis shoes, sandals, etc.)
  * have heavy gloves (NO bare hands);
  * wear jeans or long, heavy pants (NO SHORTS);
  * wear long sleeved shirts; and
  * be volunteers with emergency management, or VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) to ensure people are covered for liability.

All volunteers must sign in (name, address, phone & emergency contact number), attend a safety briefing and agree to their assignment prior to work.

ALL volunteers must sign out (with the Lead Safety Officer) when they have to leave, and check with the safety officer to let them know that they were not cut or injured on the job, or if they were, steps should be taken to get them first aid.
  * Any person who gets a wound should be evaluated by a doctor or a paramedic or a Red Cross medic for wound first aid and possible tetanus booster.
VOLUNTEER MEETING prior to work starting:

PROJECT LEADER makes introductions and overviews the layout of the pastures and the OBJECTIVES of the day. “Human health and safety are paramount. Tell the field safety officer and others if you see potential hazards while walking the pasture.”

SAFETY OFFICERS conduct a mandatory SAFETY BRIEFING:

Identify field team leaders and field safety officers (all should have each other’s cell phone numbers or have radio communications with each other)

Explain that field safety officers’ duty is to oversee the safety of the volunteers (not picking up debris)

DO NOT TOUCH ANYTHING with bare hands!
Know your limitations on picking up heavy materials—lift with your legs, keep a straight back at all times.

IMMEDIATELY notify the field safety officer of any injuries, cuts or punctures!

Do NOT walk under trees with dangling branches that might fall on you. There should be no overhead hazards. NOTE: if there are overhead hazards, only qualified personnel WITH HARD HATS should pick up debris in these areas.

1) People should be warned about the hazards of picking up barbed wire and fencing materials that have nails. Glass shards may also be present when picking up anything, and might not be seen ahead of time.

Sharps (glass shards, nails, screws, metal bolts, metal shards, needles) should be put into plastic buckets or suitable container carried by volunteers. A larger solid container inside a pickup truck can be used to empty the buckets as they get heavy or full, or other arrangements can be made.

2) Place regular debris (pop cans, paper, household items) in garbage bags.

3) Containers found that are labeled as ANY chemical (bleach, pesticides, gasoline, ammonia, etc.) should NOT be put together in the same garbage bag or container:
   – ammonia and bleach mixed = toxic chlorine gas;
   – brake fluid plus lots of other chemicals = spontaneous FIRE for example.

4) NOTIFY Field Team Leader or Field Safety Officer of any chemical container found—do NOT touch!

   Field leaders: call Project leader to obtain advice from professionals on how to handle (or not) these types of containers if found in pastures (e.g., emergency management office).

   Temporary solution for leaking or damaged pesticide containers:
   Using rubber or other pesticide resistance gloves, place damaged container in a 5 gallon bucket and seal. Mark container with red X if possible for future reference. Set aside until disposal is available.
   This is also good advice for any leaking chemical container.
5) Small dead animals (rodents, fox, rabbits, etc.) can be double plastic bagged (do NOT touch with bare hands). For large dead animals, notify field team leader to call location into Project Leader.

6) Remove downed tree limbs and loose shrubbery, since many are toxic to livestock.

7) All loose/ flakes/baled hay and spilled grain or bags of grain need to be removed from pastures---preferably by people wearing N-95 masks since mold will likely have formed; and insulation fibers may be embedded in this material. AVOID RAISING DUST when handling this material. Stand with the wind behind your back! Situations may vary from a few flakes of hay to 50 square bales that need to be removed. Work safely and do not lift something too heavy for you...forklifts may be needed.

8—if applicable) Overview other hazards such as possible presence of poisonous snakes (don’t grab under logs and downed fencing materials where snakes may hide).

WALKING THE PASTURE

* NO ONE works by themselves! We work as a team!
* ONE first aid kit must be out in the field with the field safety officer
* The location of drinking water and snacks will be ______________.
* If you must leave the debris cleanup while out in the pasture, notify the field team leader who will have someone walk with you to sign out with the Lead Safety Officer. (People can trip and fall in pastures, so people must be in pairs at all times.)

Explain how the pasture will be walked:
Straight line followed by a pickup truck to put debris into (need to keep track of the line!); OR
Straight line and put debris into piles where a vehicle can come out later for pickup; OR
Other arrangement that is safe and suitable to the terrain and debris to be collected.
(Each pasture/situation will be different!)

Volunteers will walk an arm's length away from one another (no further) and cover the pasture in straight lines (grid pattern), where at all possible and safe to do. A truck can follow the volunteers to dispose of branches, fence material, full garbage bags (tied) and other non-chemical debris (flat tires will be a risk!). A large plastic muck bucket (heavy molded plastic) or other suitable container can be put in the truck to dump nails, metal and glass shards into when people’s buckets get full (cover with a tarp if windy).

INSULATION REMOVAL TEAM

Volunteers SHALL WEAR:
* Hard soled boots
* Pants and long sleeve shirts
* Leather gloves
* N-95 respirator
* and Safety glasses
If there are insulation materials in pastures, a small team of 4-5 people should be deployed to bag up insulation materials. At least ONE person must have communications to the Project Leader and Lead Safety Officer. ONE first aid kit must accompany this team. ONE person is delegated as team leader who makes final decisions about issues.

Approach areas with insulation with the wind at your back and STAY UP WIND of insulation materials throughout the bagging process.
MINIMIZE raising dust.
Gently put insulation material into garbage bags and tie shut.

Also handle any other fuzzy or insulation-type materials in the same manner. Pipes that are covered in insulation should be handled just as carefully, since they might be covered with aged insulation.

Leave bags in a group for a vehicle to pick up.

PROJECT LEADER:

Find out from Emergency Management or other resources about:

* Availability of disaster response refuse trucks---can you get on the list for storm refuse removal at this farm’s location?
* Disposal of sharps/glass?
* Large animal carcass removal?
* Large quantities of contaminated hay and grain (specify how much)?
* Safe handling and removal of hazardous chemical containers found in the field?

PROJECT LEADER:

Please collect the sign in/sign out sheets and summarize the day’s activities:

* Start and end times
* Number of volunteers
* Type of debris removed
* Any injuries and how they were handled or referred
* What went right? What could have been changed to make it better next time?

This summary (hand written is fine) should be turned into emergency management or your supervisor.
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