

# EPA Issues Interim Final Rule for Temporary-Use of Incinerators Used in Disaster Recovery Fact Sheet

## Overview

- August 22, 2025 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an interim final rule that will make it easier for state, local, and Tribal governments to use commercial and industrial solid waste incineration (CISWI) units during disaster recovery.
- EPA has realized that states need more incinerators for emergency/disaster debris cleanup, and some have requested the temporary-use of CISWI units for such purpose.
- This interim final rule will allow for CISWI units to obtain a temporary exemption from standards during disaster response. EPA issued a similar exclusion in 2005 for incinerators covered by the rules for other solid waste incinerators.
- While burning disaster debris, CISWI may not combust the waste they normally would burn during normal operations.
- CISWI do not have to comply with their Clean Air Act section 129 requirements while they are burning only non-hazardous disaster debris, but they must operate existing pollution control equipment.
- Under the interim final rule, CISWIs may begin operating without any notification to EPA and operate for eight weeks.
- To use these incinerators for disaster recovery for longer, owners or operators must notify the EPA Administrator in writing and request permission to continue to operate for an additional eight weeks.
- After 16 weeks, owners or operators must stop operating the incinerator or comply with all requirements in the interim final rule – unless they have received written permission from the EPA Administrator to continue operating.
- The interim final rule will be effective when it is published in the *Federal Register*. EPA will accept written comments for 45 days after publication.

## Read the interim final rule

- Visit [EPA's website](#) to read the full interim final rule.