



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Assistance Process Outlined for Bastrop County

(Bastrop, Texas) Today, Bastrop County Commissioner Clara Beckett outlined the County's request for FEMA Public Assistance to help secure funding for critical infrastructure recovery – to include debris management. "Our initial focus was securing FEMA Individual Assistance to help Bastrop County residents most in need," Commissioner Beckett said. "With reentry now accomplished, we are also focusing on getting citizens help debris management."

The County has requested the State Public Assistance be added to FEMA's declared Individual Assistance Declaration. The Public Assistance Declaration paves the way for the County to receive necessary assistance for vital infrastructure support. Covered under Public Assistance is debris management – which the County does not have sufficient resources to handle the magnitude of debris removal required for recovery.

Bastrop County has been working closely with FEMA to conduct a damage assessment in the field, which was completed yesterday. FEMA is submitting the damage assessment and its recommendation for a Public Assistance disaster declaration. Cost to clear debris from the public rights-of-ways alone is estimated at \$14 million. Damage to county roadways is estimated at \$.5 million and will likely increase. Public infrastructure damage is anticipated to be in excess of \$50 million. The threshold for the State to request Public Assistance is \$32 million. County officials believe this threshold will be reached. When the expected federal declaration is made, the County's debris management plan can be implemented.

"Bastrop County's debris management efforts are tied to this effort, and the County is optimistic this request will be expedited in order for FEMA to make a decision about adding the request to the initial declaration," Commissioner Beckett added.

Bastrop is cooperating at the highest extent to assist and provide access and information to move this process forward as expeditiously as possible. Plans are developed to employ debris management specialists to assist with this major component of recovery. Just as soon as more information is available, Bastrop County will make this information available to local residents.

"We are pursuing other avenues of funding with our state and federal elected officials and continue to ask for your patience as we work diligently on this key component to our recovery," Commissioner Beckett emphasized.

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For now Bastrop County advises the following:

- Use extreme caution when dealing with debris and ash. Wear proper personal protective equipment such as dust masks and gloves. Wash hands frequently.
- Dumpsters are available for PERISHABLES ONLY at this time. Locations are available on the County's website (www.co.bastrop.tx.us).
- Bastrop County has requested Public Assistance. Details of the debris management plans will be dependent upon the receipt, or non-receipt, of Public Assistance.
- If you are addressing debris on your private property, DO NOT bring debris to the Right of Way at this time.
- If you plan to self-haul your own recyclables and debris, a list of recycling and disposal drop-off locations is available on the Bastrop County web site (www.co.bastrop.tx.us) and is being distributed in hard copy to all residents as they re-enter their neighborhoods.
- In order to reduce your debris collection costs, separate debris by the following categories:
 - Wood
 - Ash
 - Metal
 - Appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, etc.
 - Household chemicals
 - Hazardous containers such as propane tanks
 - Electronics
 - Masonry, concrete, rock, etc.

Information on waste disposal and recycling locations is available on the Bastrop County web site. It is advisable to contact these sites before bringing a load of material for disposal. This will ensure that the materials will be accepted and to verify any fees that may apply.

Contact: Commissioner Precinct 2 Clara Beckett