



Bluffton Police Department

DATE: October 20, 2016

RELEASE NUMBER: 16-84

Removal of Storm Debris from Private Neighborhoods

Debris removal as a result of Hurricane Matthew continues to be a topic of discussion. The Town is trying to provide its residents with as much information as possible to keep the confusion at bay.

Today, we want to remind the public debris removal from private roads and private communities is generally not eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA surveyors are touring Beaufort County to determine if the amount of debris on our streets and curbs is or will be a health and safety hazard. Until a final determination is made, the County will not be removing yard debris from private roads and private communities.

However, it is possible FEMA may decide removal from private property is eligible under the Public Assistance Program. If a private subdivision, private neighborhood, or individual living on a private road would like to apply for this program, contact Jim Minor, Beaufort County Debris Manager within Beaufort County's Public Works Department at jminor@bcgov.net.

A news release sent by Beaufort County regarding this topic is attached for reference.

Joy Nelson, Community Relations Manager

jnelson@townofbluffton.com

843-540-8308

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

Contact:

Jim S. Minor, Jr.
Solid Waste and Recycling Director / Debris Manager
843-255-2735

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2016



Debris Removal Guidance for Private Communities

In accordance with Federal guidelines, debris removal from any private road, private community, and/or gated property is generally not eligible for reimbursement. Beaufort County will not remove debris from private roads or private communities.

In limited circumstances, based on the severity of the impact of an incident, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)) may determine that debris removal from private property is eligible under the Public Assistance (PA) Program. Debris Removal from private property requires prior FEMA approval.

Any private community / gated property that wishes to pursue approval should have a representative of the private / gated community, such as the president of the property owners association or the management firm, contact the Beaufort County Debris Manager (CDM) within the [County's Public Works Department](#) to coordinate FEMA approval for debris removal. Since private / gated communities are private property, the County is restricted from initiating work on private property. For Beaufort County to provide assistance, the community designee must first contact the County for coordination and approval. Upon receiving a request from the community and prior to commencing work, the County will submit a request for reimbursement and seek approval from the Federal Coordinating Officer.

Any community that wishes to pursue the approval process is asked to contact the Beaufort County Debris Manager, James S. Minor, Jr. via email at jminor@bcgov.net or 843-255-2735.