

# Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

**Contact:**

Josh Gruber  
Deputy County Administrator/Special Counsel  
843-255-2059

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 31, 2016



## FEMA Will Pay for Debris Removal from Private Rights-of-Way

The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved Beaufort County's request for private property debris removal from private roads and rights-of-way under [FEMA's Public Assistance Program](#).

The [approval letter](#) from FEMA was sent to County Administrator Gary Kubic and South Carolina Emergency Management Division Director Kim Stenson after FEMA's review of several documents including the Governor's [Executive Order](#) declaring a State of Emergency for South Carolina and County Council Chairman Paul Sommerville's [proclamation](#) of a local state of emergency.

"This approval is exceptional news for Beaufort County," said Sommerville. "The proclamation was a necessary step toward receiving the approval. Without FEMA's assistance, we would be looking at a bill of more than \$10 million."

The terms of FEMA's approval require the County to provide a full roster of all private roads it enters to remove debris, and to receive completed Right of Entry documentation before it enters upon any private roads and right-of-ways where ownership can be ascertained.

Debris from vacant lots, concrete slabs and commercial properties and their parking lots are not approved for private property debris removal under the Public Assistance Program.

County leaders and FEMA officials will have a conference call at 11 a.m. today to discuss the approval letter.

"I'm confident that the county's team and our contractors will get the job done efficiently and effectively," said Kubic. "We appreciate our community's patience as we work together to rebuild and restore our community."