

Polk County

Board of Supervisors Office News



For Immediate Release
March 6, 2022

Debris Removal Efforts Continue in Polk County

Des Moines, IA- Polk County Emergency Management Agency has been working with multiple partner organizations and agencies to begin the recovery efforts from the tornado that struck southern Polk County on March 5, 2022.

Part of this strategy will be to develop a debris removal plan for residents and businesses impacted by the storm. Community leaders met this afternoon and emphasized the following points:

1. For those who have homeowner's insurance, work with your insurance agent on developing a plan for removal debris from your property.
2. Vegetative debris should be separated from other debris as it is moved to the curb and before transport to the landfill.
3. Individuals are welcome to transport debris to the landfill as long as it is separated. They will be charged at the normal rate but this may be reimbursable by your insurance company. Please work with your insurance agent.
4. Several communities that have not experienced severe damages related to the tornado, such as Des Moines, will continue to operate on their normal pickup routines and schedules.
5. Make sure you are keeping receipts and a record of any costs incurred during debris removal. These may be eligible for reimbursement from your insurance company.
6. We are asking that residents refrain from burning at this time. Several roads continue to be closed which may delay response to other emergencies such as injury or fire. Burning of material other than vegetation is not allowed.
7. Debris removal will not take place immediately. Weather conditions and the quantity of debris may require weeks to complete the removal.

We continue to ask that people refrain from coming into the affected area unless they are residents. It is important to allow those completing cleanup and emergency responders to continue recovery efforts without interference.

In addition, several roadways near this area are closed due to debris, downed power lines and debris in the roadway. A list of road closures is available on the Polk County Sheriff's office Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/joinpcso>